

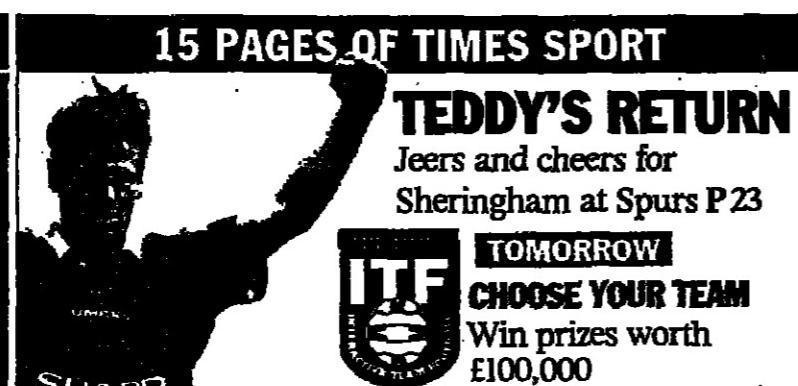
THE TIMES

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MONDAY AUGUST 11 1997

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TODAY
10P

British sportsmen demonstrate their talent for coming second

By MICHAEL CALVIN
AND MATTHEW BEARD

BRITISH sportsmen yet again demonstrated the art of coming second yesterday as Damon Hill limped across the line with engine trouble after leading the Hungarian Grand Prix until the last lap, the men's 4x100 team were pipped at the line to take silver in Athens — and England's cricketers crumbled to defeat in the Ashes series.

Damon Hill was overtaken by Jacques Villeneuve after being stuck in third gear and plagued by a faulty throttle system that permitted only intermittent power to a car that had almost won after been written off as an embarrassingly frail

makeweight. The only consolation was that defeat, by nine seconds, answered the whispered slurs that Hill was content to rest on his championship laurels.

Villeneuve admitted: "Damon just disappeared. He was worth a win today." Arrows team owner Tom Walkinshaw, who controversially questioned Hill's commitment before last month's British Grand Prix, added: "Damon just drove away from the field. He really deserved this race." Even a rival team owner like former world champion Alain Prost was moved to announce: "I feel really sorry for him. He really deserved to win."

It would have been the first win for the Arrows team, which is in its twentieth season in Formula One. Hill had only a

solitary championship point before yesterday. The British athletics team in Athens clocked up its fifth silver (along with one bronze) in the world athletics championships after an heroic display in the 4x400 relay, ending 0.18sec behind America after threatening an unexpected victory when Jamie Baulch took the lead on the third leg.

England's cricketers — set 451 to win the fifth Test, crumbled to 186 all-out, 264 behind Australia with a day to spare. The Australians lead the series 3-1 with one match remaining.

Glenn McGrath took the winning wicket when he induced an edge from Devon Malcolm with Mark Waugh taking an easy catch at second slip,

sparkling scenes of jubilation amongst the Australian players. Only Graham Thorpe offered any resistance, hitting an unbeaten 82 as his team-mates fell in regular succession at the other end.

Australia's triumph represents a remarkable reversal of fortune after the tourists' poor start to the summer when they were whitewashed in the one-day series and then lost the first Test at Edgbaston.

The rain-hit second Test at Lord's ended in a draw but the tide turned decisively Australia's way at Old Trafford where the tourists won the first of three straight victories to retain the oldest prize in world cricket winning the day with good bowling against poor batting.

Then England captain Michael Atherton appealed to the Test selectors to keep the present team for the winter series in the West Indies.

"If the selectors look at a beaten side at the end of the series and decide to change it, that would be a shame," he said. "I think most sides in the world we will compete on level terms with, but the Australians are the best team in the world."

Atherton sidestepped the matter of his future as England captain. "We'll have to wait and see," he said. The Australian captain Mark Taylor said that he wanted to beat England in the final Test.



Hill became stuck in third when he was in the lead

Sport, pages 24, 25, 31

Muddle over U-turn on the gap trap

By NICHOLAS WOOD, DAVID CHARTER AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE future of thousands of university applicants was thrown into confusion last night after a government U-turn over course fees for 'gap year' students.

Ministers were accused of creating policy on the hoof by offering to exempt from tuition fees those who have already arranged to work for charity as part of their year off before taking up university places next year — when the charges are to be imposed.

Nearly 20,000 have applied for a gap year, but only 2,000 are expected to benefit from the concession. Ministers hoped that the plan would prevent students changing their minds about taking a year off and choosing instead to join the scramble for the last free higher education places before the introduction of course fees and the scrapping of grants next year.

But critics said the proposals, which will not be detailed until after the A-level results are released on Thursday, could create extra muddle. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) said that the announcement could make the situation pre fraught on Thursday. Ministers needed more details before them in Clearing, the final rush to fill vacancies once the results come in.

The pressure on ministers was increased by the Labour-dominated National Union of Students, which said that it was preparing a test case over fees for gap year students. The challenge is given a boost by legal opinion in a letter to *The Times* today.

David Blunkett, the Educa-

tion and Employment Secretary, said the Government would waive fees for gap year students who spent at least three months doing voluntary or charity work. But they would have to prove that they had secured placements of at least three months with recognised charities before the Government announced its shake-up of higher education funding on July 23.

Senior Whitehall sources emphasised yesterday that the reprieve was a one-off. It was clear that Mr Blunkett had been forced into a hasty revision of his original proposals by the outcry over the plight of gap year students. As late as last Friday evening, a spokesman for Baroness Blackstone, the Higher Education Minister, said that she had no intention of waiving anybody's university fees, but by Saturday night, the U-turn had been agreed.

Sources said ministers were still putting "flesh on the bones" of an announcement expected next Friday. Officials have yet to decide whether the exemption will apply solely to the tuition fees of £1,000 a year or whether it will also extend to maintenance grants worth up to £2,160, which are to be replaced with loans from 1998.

One Whitehall aide said: "David Blunkett is very clear that people planning to help the community and the disadvantaged should not be unfairly penalised for having made these plans and for us turning around and saying, 'Thank you very much for doing community work — and now you can pay these fees. It's a one-off and not for those who have decided to go off back.'

Packing. It should not be presented as a U-turn."

Angela Browning, an Opposition education spokeswoman, accused the Government of making policy "on the hoof" without thinking through the implications. "They are simply making it up as they go along. They wouldn't pass an A-level exam with this kind of muddled thinking," she said.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of Ucas, said: "I would imagine most people would want to make up their minds on Thursday about what they want to do. I would have thought this latest decision will make it even more fraught than it need be."

Ucas estimates that some 71,000 of the 350,000 A-level students were expecting to take a year out. Of the 23,000 who applied for 1998 alongside 1997 applicants, 19,000 are holding offers conditional upon Thursday's results.

Douglas Trainer, new Labour president of the NUS, said the Government's attitude towards gap year students was outrageous. Many university departments welcomed a gap year because it gave students the chance to work in their chosen fields.

Mr Trainer added: "These applicants must be accepted under the stated terms and conditions set down when they applied. The Government should honour this agreement and we will take on test cases for gap year students forced to pay fees if they defer university entry to 1998."

Full listings of degree course vacancies will appear in *The Times* on Thursday.

Letters, page 19

Forecast, page 22

BY THE TIMES OVERSEAS
Australia \$10.00; Belgium B Frs 100;
Canada \$20.00; Caribbean Pts 14.00;
Denmark Kr 17.00; France F 16.00;
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Source: The Times overseas

Minister rules out new laws on privacy

By STEPHEN FARRELL

NEW privacy laws were ruled out yesterday amid controversy over the publication of pictures of Diana, Princess of Wales, embracing Dodi Fayed, son of the Harrods owner, on a private holiday.

The grainy photographs are likely to earn the Monaco-based photographer Mario Brenna £3 million worldwide. After they appeared in the *Sunday Mirror* yesterday, Peter Mandelson, Minister Without Portfolio, said: "I think they are intrusive. I think they are unwelcome."

However, he told BBC1's *Breakfast With Frost* programme that newspapers often exposed wrongdoing and corruption, and that regulation was best left to the Press Complaints Commission: "The problem of having an all-encompassing privacy law being introduced by Parliament is the protection it gives to those who don't merit protection."

"I would hate to see the day when the British press are prevented from exposing that wrongdoing and dealing with corruption among certain individuals. Often it's only the press who can do that job."

The photographs, taken with a long lens, show the Princess in a pink swimsuit with coral motifs hugging Mr Fayed, 41, a divorced Hollywood producer, aboard his father's £15 million yacht *Jonikal* off Sardinia on Mon-

Alan Hamilton, page 15

The Wallis and Edward show

PAUL HACKETT / REUTER

Continued from page 1
dered on it. There were also first editions of books by both of them: *The Heart Has Its Reasons*, the Duchess's memoirs, sat next to *A King's Story*, the Duke's memoirs. Aply, the window here carried this little exchange as commentary: "You've thrown away three kings," gasped her partner at gin-rummy. "Yes, but I kept the best one, didn't I?"

The most bizarre exhibit of all, and perhaps also the most endearing, was a little box wrapped in ageing silk and tied with a little green bow. On the silk, written in ink in the Duchess's hand, is the following: "A piece of our wedding cake 3-11-37." The box is initialed by both of them.

The Duke's and Duchess's goods and chattels are being sold by Mohamed Al Fayed, chairman of Harrods and owner of the Ritz Hotel in Paris. Diplomatically, he chose not to hold the sale in London where it has raised eyebrows, not least because he denied that he would sell the items.

The contents of the house in the Bois de Boulogne were bought by Mr Al Fayed for a reputed £3.7 million after the Duchess left her estate to the Louis Pasteur Institute.

The sale of the collection, which chronicles the love of Edward VIII for the American divorcee Wallis Simpson, is being heralded as the greatest royal sale since Charles II's treasures were disposed of more than 300 years ago. Exhibitions of some of the 3,200 lots, expected to net more than £3 million during the eight-day auction, are being held in Chicago, São Paulo in Brazil, Brazil and Buenos Aires.



The desk at which Edward VIII signed his abdication goes on display

Police demand inquiry by Irvine into judge's remarks

By STEWART TENDLER

SENIOR detectives have complained to the Lord Chancellor's Department over a judge who threatened to jail an entire squad of 20 officers after vital evidence went missing.

A police complaint over the remarks made by Judge Fergus Mitchell at Snaresbrook Crown Court has also been passed to Mr Justice Wright, the head of the southeast circuit. Colin Port, head of Serco, the Southeast Regional Crime Squad, backed by chief constables, wants Judge Mitchell rebuked for remarks which police think were exces-

sive and unfair. Police were incensed by the judge's comments in June when he was trying five men accused of conspiracy to supply cannabis.

The case had to be abandoned after a police log of surveillance operations disappeared immediately after the defence requested its presentation for forensic examination.

The logs had been in court briefly during an earlier hearing, and the judge had allowed them to be taken back to Hainault police station in east London where the squad was based.

The judge told the court:

"What really worries me is the destruction of exhibits I ordered to come to court by one of a fairly limited number of officers. They're in contempt in my view. I suppose I could send them all to prison for contempt from the superintendent down."

He was told that the Police Complaints Authority had begun an inquiry. Told there were no police officers in court the judge asked: " Didn't they have the nerve?"

Immediately after the case Mr Port ordered a transcript of the judge's remarks. Officers in the regional crime squad say that the judge was

unfair because the log may have gone missing when removals were taking place.

Mr Port, with the support of the committee of chief constables who oversee his squad, wrote to the Lord Chancellor to complain. The department said that judges are independent and cannot be disciplined. Now Serco has written again to Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, pointing out cases where judges have been seen by the Lord Chancellor.

The investigation supervised by the PCA is still underway. No officers have been suspended.

MPs aim to be beside the sea

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

LABOUR MPs are to set up their own backbench beach club to promote British seaside resorts. Its founder, Gordon Marsden, new Labour MP for Blackpool South, wants the traditional bucket-and-spade holiday back in vogue.

He has the full backing of Chris Smith, National Heritage Secretary. Mr Marsden is seeking to insure the economic regeneration of seaside towns, and among his plans are a new grading system for hotels, guest houses and bed and breakfast places. Lottery money has already been allo-

cated to restore some piers around the country and other projects are planned.

Mr Marsden has written to 40 Labour MPs with coastal and seaside constituencies to arrange a meeting before the summer recess. Some summer days are planned during the summer to see how various resorts are coping.

He said: "I think we need to give back a sense of pride to seaside towns."

"We must get away from the idea of a British holiday being yobs on the rampage. There are lots of positive things going on."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police given power to name paedophiles

New guidelines allowing public identification of paedophiles "in exceptional circumstances" were welcomed by police and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The code of practice, to be sent to police forces today, will allow officers to tell schools and members of the public about convicted child sex offenders living in their area. However, Alan Michael, Home Office Minister, will make clear that names and addresses should be published only if a person is believed to pose a risk, not as a matter of course. Details will be held on a central register from next month.

Hague press secretary

William Hague is close to naming a former ministerial adviser as his press secretary. Gregor Mackay impressed senior Tories when he was recruited in a temporary capacity for the election campaign. Mr Mackay, who is in his late 20s and works for a political lobbying company, was previously a special adviser to Ian Lang while he was a Cabinet minister. An announcement is expected next month when the Tory leader returns from holiday in America.

MP urges drugs debate

A Labour MP has urged the Government to consider legalising drugs in the wake of the murder of five-year-old Dillon Hall. Brian Iddon, member for Bolton South East, where Dillon died in what is believed to be a drugs-related shooting last week, called for a Royal Commission to look at decriminalisation as a way of cutting drug-related offences. "As long as there is money in the sale of drugs ... we will have tragedies like the one in Bolton," he said.

Toy dealer jailed

Jeffrey Levitt, the dealer in antique toys, is back in prison for handling toys stolen in a burglary. In 1991 Levitt, 40, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, carried out a £12 million fraud on the Department of Trade and Industry, which then awarded him a Queen's Award for exports of antique toys. Levitt was jailed for 12 months at Oxford Crown Court on Friday after admitting handling proceeds of a burglary in a north Oxfordshire village on May 31 last year.

Football fans arrested

Rival football fans clashed outside Leicester City's ground on Saturday, smashing pub windows and hurling street signs. Twenty-one Aston Villa supporters and three Leicester fans were arrested during the battle after the match at the Filbert Street ground. Trouble started at a pub shortly after the game, which Leicester won. Street signs were ripped from lamp-posts. Three people inside the pub were treated for cuts.

Two hurt in boat blast

A nine-year-old girl and her father were injured after their yacht exploded while refuelling at a marina in Chichester, West Sussex. David Stovell, 41, and his daughter Charlotte, from Southwater, West Sussex, were last night being treated for burns in hospital in Chichester. Eye-witnesses reported a series of explosions aboard the boat which was severely damaged in the blaze. Three other members of the family who were on board escaped unharmed.

Autism role for Asher

The actress Jane Asher, right, has been made president of the National Autistic Society after being involved in its work for more than ten years. Ms Asher said yesterday: "I am proud to be part of the excellent work that the society is doing. Autism is a complex condition and I am happy to do what I can to help highlight the problems that people with autism and their families face."



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Dobson admits hospital waiting lists will grow

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

FRANK Dobson, the Health Secretary, admitted yesterday that hospital waiting lists would go on rising for some time in spite of the Government's promise to provide more money for the NHS.

He insisted that Labour had honoured its pre-election commitment to make health a priority, and said the Government had already earmarked extra funds for breast cancer treatment and paediatric intensive care units.

"There is no question of betraying anybody," Mr Dobson said. Waiting lists were at record levels and would go on rising. "It will be some time before we can get them down, but we are concentrating our efforts on those conditions which can show the biggest and most dangerous deteriorations — like cancer."

The Department of Health has confirmed that 44 of the 100 health authorities in Eng-

land have increased their the longest time a patient can wait for 1997-98.

North Staffordshire has increased the maximum guaranteed waiting time from nine to 15 months; the maximum wait has gone up from 12 to 18 months in the Wirral, and Portsmouth and East Hampshire has put up its maximum to 12 months from six.

Four London health autho-

rities — Enfield and Harin-

gey, Barnet, South Essex and Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth — say that maximum waits for operations are being increased from one year to 18 months.

Mr Dobson denied a claim by the Liberal Democrats that the changes had been introduced without publicity in an attempt to hide the problem. "I have been making the position clear and taking responsibility for it for two months now," he said.

Cook's wife blames split on Tory cuts

THE estranged wife of the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has claimed that Conservative cuts in the health service were partly to blame for their break-up.

Margaret Cook, a consultant haematologist at St John's Hospital in her husband's constituency of Livingston in Lothian, said she should "probably" have spent more time in London with Mr Cook.

"In practice, however, this has hardly been possible over the past five years because of the demands of my profession," she said. "The vicious financial stringencies imposed on the health service by the last Government have prevented rational approaches to staffing and many consultants, myself included, have carried excessive workloads with little hope of alleviation."

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Lucille McLauchlan, left, and Deborah Parry, who expect a verdict on murder charges within a week

Murder case nurses await judges' verdict

Lawyers for Britons present evidence against demand for death penalty, reports Michael Theodoulou

THE two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia face an agonising wait for the verdict after judges yesterday abruptly closed the case and retired to consider the evidence.

Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry did not attend the 45-minute hearing at the Islamic sharia court in Al Khubar. The verdict is expected within a week, relatives said.

The women's fate would now appear to depend on whether the judges accept as evidence alleged confessions which they later retracted, insisting they had been made under threats of sexual assault by Saudi police and promises of an early release. Their lawyers have repeatedly urged the court to throw out the confessions. The prosecution

has apparently presented no other evidence.

Yesterday, lawyers for Ms McLauchlan, 31, and Ms Parry, 38, presented what they called critical new evidence to undermine the right of the victim's family to demand the death penalty if they are found guilty of killing Yvonne Gilford, 55. She was stabbed, bludgeoned with a hammer and suffocated last December at the King Fahd medical complex in Dharan, eastern Saudi Arabia.

The lawyers produced medical documents from Australia which purportedly showed that the victim's mother, Muriel Gilford, 84, was suffering from Alzheimer's disease and was incapable of deciding the nurse's fate.

Under Saudi law, a murder victim's immediate family can call for execution, but only if

deserve to be executed. "That's a pretty cast-iron assurance, I'd say," Michael Dark, one of the nurses' lawyers in Riyadh, said.

Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz, a brother of King Fahd, said in an interview with the *Washington Times*: "I am telling you that in this case there will be no beheadings."

Ms Parry, of Alton, Hampshire, has been so haunted by fears that she might be headed in public that she has had regular psychiatric treatment.

But the Saudi authorities had made it clear since the trial opened in May that they would do their utmost to rule out the possibility of two Western women being executed.

Before any evidence was heard, the judges made an appeal to Mr Gilford to consider accepting a financial settlement, commonly known as "blood money", in the event of a guilty verdict. When he persisted in demanding the death penalty, the court then questioned his legal status as his sister's heir.



Gilford: found stabbed in medical complex

the decision is unanimous. Frank Gilford, the victim's brother and only other immediate relative has persistently demanded the death penalty, which in Saudi Arabia means public beheading by the sword.

However, the likelihood of the death penalty being imposed was lessened on Friday when a leading member of the Saudi Royal Family declared that the two women did not

Chile puts Britain's star role on hold

By NIGEL HAWKES

BRITAIN'S biggest astronomy project could be delayed by a dispute over funding with Chile, which has failed to pay its share of the costs.

The Gemini project plans to build two big telescopes, one in Chile and one in Hawaii, to provide high-quality coverage of the entire sky. Britain is committed to paying a quarter of the £115 million cost.

Officials of the US-led consortium which is building the telescopes have now given the Chileans until September 1 to settle a three-year legal dispute which has blocked payment of Chile's 5 per cent share. If Chile fails to meet the deadline, Gemini will do a deal with Australia, which is eager to step into the breach.

Mal Mountain, project director for Gemini, which is based in Tucson, Arizona, told *Science magazine*: "The project is running out of cash, and if nothing happens soon we will have to delay work on the southern telescope."

A network of telescopes in Chile, South Africa and Australia has detected what is believed to be a planet circling a star thousands of light years from Earth. The star has a mass similar to that of the Sun, while the planet is the size of Jupiter. More data is needed to confirm the existence of the new planet.

Handgun amnesty 'will end in chaos'

By PETER FOSTER

THE handover of thousands of handguns outlawed after Dunblane is in danger of descending into administrative and financial chaos, a firearms group warned yesterday.

It claims that thousands of gun enthusiasts will overwhelm the system in a last-minute rush to hand in their guns to police.

Owners of the estimated 160,000 banned large-calibre handguns have until October 1 to give up their weapons. Police say only 30,000 pistols have been surrendered since the amnesty began on July 1.

Albie Fox, director of the Sportsman's Association, which represents 43,000 shooting enthusiasts, said: "It will be chaos, tying up considerable amounts of manpower and requiring them [the police] to draft in extra staff."

Some forces, including Surrey police, have attempted to speed up gun collection by writing to licence holders. The system for surrendering guns varies widely between police forces. Some constabularies, such as Lancashire, are making individual appointments for owners while others expect gun owners to attend designated stations between fixed hours on nominated days.

The Government has estimated the bill for compensation at £169 million but the shooting lobby puts the figure as high as £450 million.

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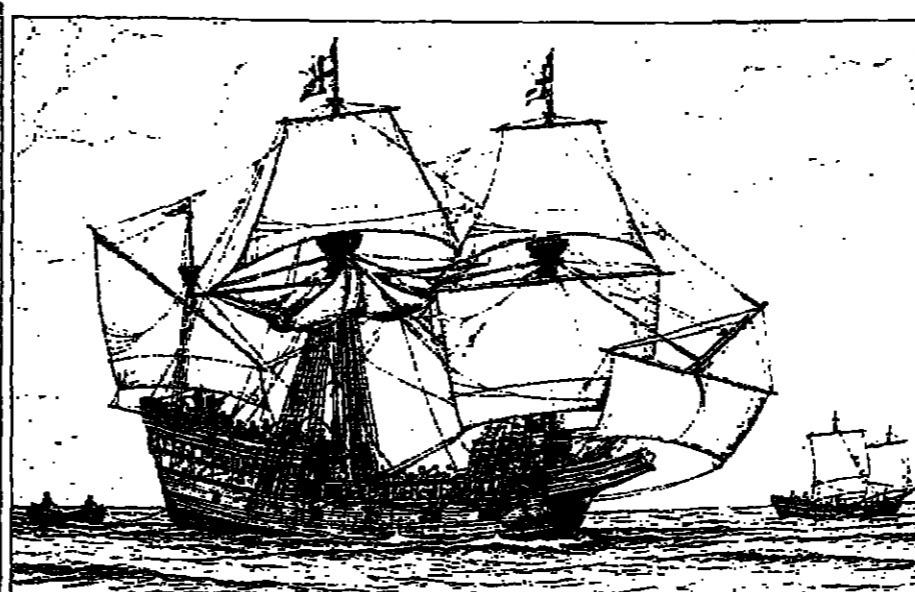
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Drake's boat comes in after 400 years



The statue of Sir Francis Drake in Plymouth. Captain Aker said the acceptance by Dutch and American historians of his claims ended an injustice to Drake.



A drawing by Captain Aker of the *Golden Hind*. The ship's chaplain, Francis Fletcher, drew this map of Cape Horn, discovered in 1578.

Navigator is finally credited with discovering Cape Horn, reports Mark Henderson

MORE than 400 years after his death, Dutch and American history books are to be rewritten to acknowledge Sir Francis Drake as the man who discovered Cape Horn, the southernmost point of South America.

The American National Maritime Historical Society and the Dutch Cape Horners Foundation, which have long promoted the rival claims of the Dutch navigator Willem Schouten, have both accepted the arguments of Captain Raymond Aker, a retired seaman from California, that Drake reached the Cape in 1578, during his circumnavigation of the world.

Schouten did not land on the Cape until 1616, but has generally been credited with the discovery. He named the Cape after his home town, Hoorn.

Captain Aker has used maps and documentary accounts of Drake's circumnavigation to prove that he landed on Cape Horn. Horn Island's southern headland, when storms blew the *Golden Hind* off course after he had sailed into the Pacific Ocean through the Straits of Magellan. Drake named the cape "Elizabeth" after Elizabeth I and claimed it for England.

Since 1926, when the American historian Henry R. Wagner wrote *Sir Francis Drake's Voyage Around the World*, it has been thought



Michael Turner, who said a map of Drake's route proved he landed at the Cape

that the *Golden Hind* landed on the nearby Henderson Island, which is north west of Cape Horn. Victorians had credited the discovery to Drake. Michael Turner, founder of the Drake Exploration Society, said that description by Francis Fletcher, the *Golden Hind*'s chaplain, proved beyond doubt that the ship had landed at Cape Horn. Francis Fletcher tells us that from the southern headland of the island, no other islands could be seen, he said.

"That only fits with Horn Island. From Henderson Island, you would be able to see

the Ildefonso Islands and False Cape Horn at the end of the Hardy Peninsula."

The latitude Drake recorded for his landfall, 56 degrees, is also closer to that of Cape Horn than Henderson Island's southern cape, Cape Brisban.

Several British maps of the foot of South America made before Schouten's voyage to the Cape also show Horn Island, with clear ocean beneath it. Captain Aker has compared these maps, by Fletcher, Jodocus Hondius and Edward Wright, with modern charts to show that the island shown is Horn

British historians had long supported Drake's claim above Schouten's. Hazelhoff Roelfzema, of the Dutch Cape Horners' Foundation, said that the theory that Drake discovered the Cape "is not the most probable". Captain Aker said their acceptance of the discovery "ends an injustice to Drake".

The Americans and Captain Aker's Drake Navigators Guild of California are to write to the Queen asking her to make a proclamation confirming Drake's discovery.

The Drake Exploration Society is raising money to fund an expedition to Horn Island to find a carving that would provide the final proof.

Fletcher went ashore with a boy and carved an inscription on a stone on the highest point of the island," Mr Turner said. "We want to go there in October, the same month as Drake, so the vegetation will be the same and we stand a good chance of finding it."

Sir David Nicholas, the former chairman of ITN who is patron of the society, is leading the fundraising.

Captain Aker is also pressing historians to accept his evidence that Drake landed at Drakes Estero in northern California in 1579, claiming it for England as Nova Albion. He hopes to have the bay made a United States heritage landmark.

House buying 'could be like buying a car'



Hilary Armstrong: studying individual house sales

MAKING vendors rather than buyers responsible for the survey and introducing property "logbooks" would help to make buying a home as simple as buying a car, a report says today.

Offers to buy or sell houses should also be made legally binding on both sides, which would end gazumping and long property chains, the free-market Adam Smith Institute suggests.

The institute identified lawyers as the main obstacle to change as it submitted to ministers detailed proposals for streamlining the conveyancing system.

But Eamonn Butler, its director-general, said that change would come only if

ministers were prepared to overrule the inevitable objections from a legal profession wedded to the idea of making every agreement subject to contract. Lawyers would have to abandon their preference for giving clients the right to pull out of a deal at the last moment.

But with ministers now involved in a high-level Whitehall review of the conveyancing system, Dr Butler was optimistic that changes were on the way. "This Government may be more inclined to do something, more inclined to take lawyers by the scruff of the neck and say that

you will have to change your ways and that we won't take excuses for why it cannot be done," he said.

"Change is essential because, after a million council house sales, so many more people own their own homes. As they start trading up, they find themselves in a bear garden they don't understand.

The introduction of housing logbooks and electronic links between solicitors and local councils would cut the buying time "from months to minutes", the institute suggests.

Under the scheme, closely modelled on that used in Scotland, sellers would set a deadline for bids for a property. Once they had been received there would be a mini-

auction to ensure the house went to the highest bidder. Offers and acceptances would be legally binding on both parties, thus outlawing gazumping and introducing penalties for sellers who pulled out at the last moment.

The introduction of housing logbooks and electronic links between solicitors and local councils would cut the buying time "from months to minutes", the institute suggests.

As part of the bidding process, buyers would propose separate "entry dates" for moving into a new home and then negotiate the exact moment with the seller.

In its report, the institute says: "These reforms would remove most of the uncertainties, hazards and delays that make moving house such an ordeal."

"On the strength of the logbook indications, people could place an offer into the open bidding process, the acceptance of which would bind both sides.

"There would be no gazumping, no gazundering, no dashed hopes and expectations. Entry dates could be set for mutual convenience, and would be more predictable, so there would be no need for housing chains, which require

everyone to exchange contracts on the same day.

"Buying or selling a house will always be a major event in most people's lives, but it does not need to be any more difficult, time-consuming or worrying than buying a car."

"With the housing market now on the upturn, and the number of sales increasing, now would seem an appropriate time to act and to spare today's homeowning generation some of the grief which our outdated conveyancing system has imposed on previous generations."

Tony Blair has asked three ministers — the Housing Min-

ister Hilary Armstrong, Geoff Hoon, a junior minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, and the Consumer Affairs Minister Nigel Griffiths — to conduct the review.

At the heart of their work will be a study of personal cases to be led by Ms Armstrong. Government officials are to monitor a sample of individual transactions from the moment a decision is made to buy a property until a sale is completed.

The officials will provide Ms Armstrong with reports on people's experiences, covering the role of solicitors, surveyors, estate agents and mortgage sellers; the costs of conveyancing; other charges and delays.

Stitching blamed for parachute death fall

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE skydiver who survived a fall of 5,000 ft in America after his main parachute failed to open has been told that the accident was caused by defective stitching on the harness.

Gareth Griffiths, 27, of Bridgend, South Wales, survived but his instructor Mike Costello, 42, was killed when he took the full impact of the fall. The pair were strapped together for a tandem jump above an airfield in Florida. They fell to the ground at 180mph after the reserve parachute became tangled.

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration has confirmed that the main parachute failed to open because of the stitching fault. Orlando-based Strong Enterprises, which supplied the parachute, could now face a multimillion-dollar compensation claim from Mr Griffiths. He is learning to walk again with the aid of a frame at his parents' home in Bridgend.

His widow David said yesterday: "Gareth hasn't said anything about making a compensation claim at the moment. He is concentrating on his recovery and it could be some time before he is ready to take a civil action."

Mr Griffiths booked the freefall while on holiday in Florida with four friends in June.

Mr Costello was a veteran skydiver who had made more than 3,000 tandem jumps. Mr Costello's widow Sandi said yesterday that she would not be making a compensation claim against the parachute company. "It was just a tragic accident," she said. "Things are very difficult for me right now, I just need time to mourn."



Mary and Bob Charlton with Troy, who escaped from the accident in Northumberland with cuts and bruises

Death gap widens between cities and the country

Life is too fast in many big conurbations but reasons are hard to find, reports Nigel Hawkes

PEOPLE in big cities, especially in the North, are increasingly likely to die before their small-town contemporaries. The difference has widened over the past decade, meaning that where people live is now a stronger predictor of an untimely death than it has been at any time in half a century.

The figures have emerged in a new analysis by Dr Daniel Dorling, of the University of Bristol, in a report for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. People living in the worst areas for an early death are now twice as likely to die before retirement age than those who live in the best areas.

Among the worst places are Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham, and urban Glamorganshire. The best are the small towns of Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, Herefordshire and Essex. The gap is the greatest since records were first collated in 1951.

Similar patterns hold for infant mortality, with Leeds,

Bradford, urban Lancashire and the Midlands showing the highest mortality, and southern counties the lowest. A baby girl born in Leeds is more than twice as likely to die in the first year of life than a girl growing up in Dorset, the figures show.

The figures mean that Britain is extremely unlikely to reach a target set by the World Health Organisation in 1985 to reduce health inequalities by 25 per cent by 2010. Discovering the reason is not part of the study and Dr Dorling is reluctant to jump to conclusions.

"It does seem that the trend has occurred too quickly — and involves too many deaths — to be explained simply by a changing distribution of wealth, changing causes of death or as a reflection of past health inequalities," he said.

"These patterns of varying life chances need to be investigated and that is likely to prove a harder task than describing them." Death rates

Dog lands on its feet after plane crash kills owners

A POLICE inspector and his wife are caring for the sole survivor of a light aircraft crash — a golden retriever called Troy. The dog escaped with cuts and bruises after the twin-engined plane smashed into a field in Northumberland on Friday, killing the man and woman on board.

Bob Charlton, of Northumbria Police, and his wife Mary, who live at Alnwick, close to the crash scene, are now providing a foster home for the dog.

Mr Charlton said: "I took him in because I just fell in love with him the first time I saw him. He was very badly shaken and we believe he is

the luckiest dog alive." The couple in the aircraft were trapped in the wreckage, but rescuers were driven back by flames and heat as they tried to respond to their cries for help.

Police are not releasing their names until their identities have been confirmed. This is being delayed because bodies were burnt beyond recognition. They are not thought to be from northeast England.

After examination by air accident investigators, the wreckage was being moved from the site, close to the East Coast rail line and Brunton airfield, a few miles south of Seahouses, North-

umberland. The four-seater, which is understood to have taken off on Friday from a small airstrip at Stapleford, Hertfordshire, crashed while trying to land on the Brunton strip.

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Broker of Northern Ireland talks ponders his future role in peace

John Hume must decide whether to stand, uncontested, for the Irish presidency. He spoke to Martin Fletcher

JOHN HUME leaves for a holiday in France this week during which he must weigh one of the toughest choices of his long and distinguished career.

The 60-year-old leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party must decide whether he wants to become Ireland's next president but in doing so to relinquish his pivotal role in the forthcoming peace negotiations that he has done more than anyone to broker. Interviewed in a hotel in his native Londonderry, Mr Hume insisted he had given no "deep thought" to succeeding Mary Robinson in November and had not discussed the possibility with party colleagues. He conspicuously failed to rule it out, however, and the pressure on him to run for the presidency is growing daily.

Mr Hume, who would be the first Irish president from the North, is receiving plenty of encouragement from Dublin where the ruling Fianna Fail and the main opposition party Fine Gael would readily make him their uncontested candidate. The Irish media

have seized on the idea, with the *Irish Times* declaring that he "has the stature and the vision to ensure that the highest office in the land does not slide backwards from the high watermark of the Robinson presidency". A poll in Dublin's *Sunday Independent* yesterday gave him double the support of that for his closest rival, the former Taoiseach Albert Reynolds. The singer Dana barely registered.

It is easy to understand why Mr Hume, the soft-spoken

MP for Foyle and MEP, might be tempted by the vice-regal luxury of Aras an Uachtarain, the President's Dublin residence. The strain of promoting peace talks, and years of shuttling to Westminster, Strasbourg and America, have taken their toll on his health. He admits the pace "lately has started to get to me". He complains of knots in his stomach, of numbness in his hands, of exhaustion. "It's stress," he says. "Overwork."

But mention the peace pro-

cess and Mr Hume grows animated. Once pilloried for talking to Gerry Adams, he has finally managed to get Sinn Fein to the negotiating table. He believes David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party will turn up for the full-scale talks next month because public opinion demands it and because the requirement that any settlement is put to the people of Northern Ireland in a referendum protects the party from any charge of "selling out". Mr Hume says that with a British Prime Minister for the first time making Northern Ireland his top priority, an agreement ending 70 years of strife is certainly "achievable", with serious dialogue "it could all happen fairly quickly".

Mr Hume has spent 30 years doggedly pursuing a resolution of this most intractable of conflicts. His life's work is tantalisingly close to fruition. But nominations for the presidency close on September 30 — just two weeks after the talks open — and becoming Ireland's head of state would mean swapping his role in those talks for a political straitjacket.

It is hard to imagine Mr Hume leaving Unionism and militant republicanism confronting each other at such a crucial juncture without his moderating presence. In the resulting Foyle by-election, moreover, the Sinn Fein chairman Mitchel McLaughlin could well win Mr Hume's Westminster seat, boosting Sinn Fein's hopes of overtaking the SDLP as nationalism's biggest party. But Mr Hume could conclude that having brokered the talks, the presidency would now be the best vehicle for advancing his vision for a "new Ireland".

His model is Europe's post-war development of institutions that recognise national differences but enable its peoples jointly to pursue their

John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, would be the first Irish president from the North

common economic interests. Similar institutions could unite Ireland's two traditions in joint economic effort — "spilling our sweat not our blood" — and a stable Ireland would be ideally placed to

attract inward investment. Mr Hume has very successfully attracted foreign investment to Londonderry. Last week *The New York Times* claimed that Mr Hume had told a private dinner at Dublin's US Embas-

sy that as president he would be "a super-salesman for Ire-

land trying to bring investment and jobs here". He refuses to be drawn on that.

Leaving the hotel after the interview, Mr Hume spots a

tabloid front-page featuring Diana, Princess of Wales, frolicking in a swimsuit with her new friend. He marvels at the constant pressure she endures. "How do they cope?", he asks with feeling.



Mowlam criticised over prisoners

Unionists are angry that terrorists might be freed if the truce holds, our Chief Ireland Correspondent reports

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, provoked Unionist anger yesterday by suggesting that republican and loyalist terrorists could be released from prison early if the paramilitary ceasefire holds.

Peter Robinson of the Democratic Unionist Party denounced what he said was yet another government concession to keep the IRA's temporary ceasefire going. "Many in the security services will be wondering why they put their lives on the line to arrest these people if the Secretary of State is going to let them out before they've completed their sentences," he said. John Taylor, of the Ulster Unionist Party, also criticised the move.

Dr Mowlam told *The Sunday Telegraph* that she was

not yet ready to discuss demands that terrorist prisoners be freed but would consider that and other confidence-building measures designed to bolster the peace process if the ceasefire held.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, recently demanded the speedy release of all "political" prisoners during his first official meeting with Dr Mowlam. Sinn Fein began a campaign on behalf of the republican concern about the repatriation of prisoners who had served more than 20 years in English prisons and said that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, would shortly be reviewing the cases of "four such prisoners".

Dr Mowlam will decide at the end of the month whether the IRA ceasefire is genuine and Sinn Fein should be invited to full-scale peace negotiations beginning on September

18 months in the mid-1970s, would soon be transferred to jails in the Irish Republic. A little-noticed passage of the government's July 9 letter to Sinn Fein acknowledged republican concern about the repatriation of prisoners who had served more than 20 years in English prisons and said that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, would shortly be reviewing the cases of "four such prisoners".

Dr Mowlam will decide at the end of the month whether the IRA ceasefire is genuine and Sinn Fein should be invited to full-scale peace negotiations beginning on September

15. A senior security source told *The Times* that after three weeks the ceasefire was holding very well. They had stopped targeting and surveillance as well as outright violence. The only worry was continued punishment beatings by groups that the IRA could control if it wanted to. Northern Ireland's march-

ing season ended at the weekend with clashes between loyalists and the police at the annual Apprentice Boys parade in Londonderry. A hoax van bomb was also left on the route of the parade. The scuffles marred a day that had begun with the remarkable sight of Domhnaill MacNiallai, spokesman for the Catholic Bogside Residents Group, attending an Apprentice Boys' pageant commemorating the lifting of the siege of Londonderry in 1689.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sea demo will not delay oil, says BP

Seven protesters from Greenpeace were spending their second night chained to a BP supply vessel 70 miles west of Shetland. They boarded the *Stena Dee* on Saturday evening arriving by inflatable dinghy. Greenpeace wants to end development of the new Foinaven oilfield, but BP said that the occupation would not set back production.

Unsafe coaches

Fifty buses and coaches were ordered off the road after police checks in the South and the Midlands. A further 120 had faults which must be repaired within ten days. One in eight vehicles were found to have faults.

LWT criticised

London Weekend Television should have warned the victim of a knifepoint robbery before it broadcast a police interview they had filmed on her doorstep, the Independent Television Commission has ruled.

Heroin charges

Three men were charged in connection with the seizure of heroin worth £100 million from a Slovenian-registered lorry in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. They are due to appear before magistrates in Hendon today.

Daughter dies

A 16-month-old girl was killed after she was struck by a car being driven slowly by her father outside the family's home in Tunbridge Wells, Sussex. Police believe that the girl ran out in front of the car. She died instantly.

Oldest barbecue

Archaeologists claim to have found Britain's oldest barbecue near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The scorched clay square, dating back 400,000 years, is thought to have been used to roast joints of deer, bear or even mammoth.

Clocking on

The world's largest steam clock has been unveiled on the waterfront at St Helier, Jersey. Modelled on 19th century paddle steamers that first brought tourists to the island, it cost £250,000 and is 50ft high.

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NEWS IN BRIEF
Sea demo
will not
delay oil,
says BP

Never protesters
spotted
in their second
demonstration in a BP supply
vessel 20 miles west of
Shetland. They wanted
to earn money arriving
safely directly. Great
want to end de-
velopment of oil fields
and that the occupied
island not be used
for production

Unsafe coaches

Safe laws and codes
were ordered off the road
after police checks in the
North and the Midlands
which must be repeated
within ten days. One in
five vehicles were found
unsafe.

LWT criticised

London Weekend Te
should have
been the victim of
a recent robbery before
a police investigation
that has been at
the top step of the
television Commission

Heroin charges

Heroin was charged
from a house and
arrested from a house
in the street. But heroin
was due to be made available
to the public soon.

Daughter dies

A newborn girl
died after being
born dead. Her
mother died
soon after her
daughter's death.

Rightist leader

A right-wing
leader has
been arrested
on suspicion of
attempting to
murder his wife.

Locking on

A man has
been arrested
on suspicion of
attempting to
murder his wife.

When men were the unfairer sex

The philosopher John Stuart Mill rejected subjugation of women in marriage, writes Emma Wilkins, but most of his peers took dominance for granted.

NEW MAN

existed even in Victorian times. When John Stuart Mill married Harriet Taylor in 1851, the philosopher and economist signed away the marriage rights enjoyed by his contemporaries and accepted by their wives.

Mill declared his opposition to the legal subjugation of wives to husbands: "I, having no means of legally divesting myself of these odious powers, put on record a formal protest against the existing law of marriage," he wrote.

But Mill's egalitarian approach was not that of the majority of Victorian husbands. Until late in the century, a man exercised complete legal control over his wife's person and property and enjoyed the right to sole guardianship of their children.

A youthful Florence Nightingale, when weighing up the virtues of one suitor, decided she would find it impossible "to put it out of my power ever to be able to seize the chance of forming for myself a true and rich life". She never married.

The double standard under which was considered acceptable for a man to visit a prostitute while a woman was expected to "behave like the poet Coventry Patmore's *The Angel in the House*, was reinforced by the legal system. Under the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1857, adultery by a wife was immediate grounds for divorce but a husband's infidelity was considered an offence only if accompanied by cruelty or desertion.

In 1870, the first of a series of Married Women's Property Acts was passed, giving women control over their own financial affairs. But the march towards greater sexual equality was by no means continuous in 1899, a year in the case of *Regina v Clarence* asserted a man's right to rape his wife even when he was suffering from advanced stages of syphilis.

Fair from rebelling, many Victorian women seemed content with their role as keepers of hearth and home. Mrs Gaskell in *Mary Barton*, who married in 1854 and had two

children, visited Oswald Mosley's wife Cynthia after she had her first baby; she is said to have advised: "Dear child, you look very pale and must not have another baby for a long time. Henry always withdraws in time, such a noble man."

Middle-class women tried not to exceed two children. They were relieved when their *petticoat* arrived each month, although it tended to drive them to their beds for several days.

While most middle-class women remained little troubled by the women's movement, its impact on future generations cannot be underestimated. Thanks to the pioneering work of Miss Davies, who founded Girton College, Cambridge, in 1869, the higher education of girls was taken seriously for the first time.

The first colleges for women at Oxford — Lady Margaret Hall and Somerville — opened in 1879, but women were still not admitted to degrees — even when a Girton undergraduate achieved the only first in her year in classics in 1887.

A rigorous campaign for degrees at Cambridge began in 1896, prompting the *Pall Mall Gazette* to publish fears that all Eton and rowing men would go to Oxford — thus upsetting the boat race results. *The Times* published a list of train timetables to help London-based graduates to get to Cambridge to vote against the admission of women. Cambridge did not admit women to full membership until 1948.

As the century drew to a close, the economic benefits of equality, which were to prove so vital on the outbreak of war in 1914, were beginning to be acknowledged.

As Miss Davies put it: "It can never be for the interest of society, in a purely economical aspect, to keep any class of its members in idleness. A man who should carry one of his arms in a sling, in order to secure greater efficiency and importance to the other, would be regarded as a lunatic."

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Life behind the green baize door

Emma Wilkins reports on the strict domestic pecking order

FOR Miss Jane Langton of Brodsworth, the day began with a soft knock on her door as the parlourmaid entered with a cup of morning tea. After drawing back the curtains, the maid curseyed before leaving Miss Langton to her morning ablutions.

But Miss Langton was not the lady of the house nor even the square's daughter: she was the housekeeper at Brodsworth Hall, near Doncaster, south Yorkshire, where hierarchy within the servants' quarters was as strictly defined as it was between the working and upper classes.

Every evening after supper in the servants' hall, Miss Langton — housekeeper for 43 years from the 1890s — retired to her own sitting room with the butter and cool for pudding. The ritual, known as "Pug's Progress", left the scullery maid, parlourmaid and footmen free to gossip.

Each of the 15 domestics at Brodsworth Hall, a magnificent Italianate villa built between 1861 and 1863, had strictly defined duties. The scullery maid was responsible for preparing vegetables and washing up after meals. The still-room maid made milk puddings, jellies and other treats, while the footmen shifted vast quantities of coal needed to heat the 16-bedroom house. A laundry maid was in charge of the linen cupboard, where ladies' and gentlemen's sheets were kept on separate shelves in accordance with Victorian views on propriety.

The Hall was owned by Charles Thelluson, the great-grandson of Peter Thelluson, a Huguenot banker who died in 1797, leaving a fortune of

£700,000 — the equivalent of £34 million today. The will was contested in Chancery for 50 years, inspiring Charles Dickens' *Jarndyce v Jarndyce in Bleak House*.

The vast Victorian kitchen, which dates from the time of Mrs Beeton, has remained almost untouched since it was closed after the First World War. Apart from the usual clutter of jelly moulds, saucers, knives and knife sharpeners, there are curios including bread moulds for making mini-baguettes. An early refrigerator with two compartments separated by a

large block of ice dominates one corner. It was topped up by the ice wagon from Grimsby once a month.

Neither Mr Thelluson nor his wife ever set foot in the kitchen. But for the Victorian middle classes, a spot of culinary experimentation was considered a novelty. During seaside holidays to Ramsgate, Marion Linley Sambourne — wife of a junior *Punch* cartoonist — enjoyed nothing more than mucking about in the kitchen. Like all respectable middle-class Victorian wives, Mrs Linley Sambourne kept a cook at her home in Kensington.

NEXT

Muscular Christianity on the football field, rugby's great schism and W.G. Grace at 20 stones. The world of Victorian sport

and had only modest success in the kitchen. "Busy in kitchen," she wrote in her diary in 1888. "Made pastry and we were able to eat it. Cooked two tarts, washed up, busy all morning."

When at home, Mrs Linley Sambourne's day usually began at noon with a light breakfast of tea and scrambled eggs followed by a shopping trip to Harvey Nichols or Barkers. She avoided Harrods whenever possible: "To Harrods, dirty place — though cheap," she recorded.

Mrs Linley Sambourne, whose husband Edward was assistant to Sir John Tenniel, the chief cartoonist at *Punch*, spent her days supervising staff. The cook, nursery and parlourmaids were frequently summoned to the morning room, where she would complain of their impertinence and laziness. One cook was dismissed on the ground that she was "hideous".

Choosing menus for dinner parties was a vital part of the daily routine. The diary entry for March 4, 1859 reads:

"Eight to dinner. Artichoke soup, fillets of salmon, leg of lamb, salad, new potatoes, stewed celery. Wild duck, wattle, Aldershot pud, plum pud. Soft roes of herring, biscuits, etc."

At one of the couple's less successful dinners, a promising young playwright blotted his copybook: "Rather slow dinner. O. Wilde sat next me and split all his claret all over my dress," Mrs Linley Sambourne wrote.

Mrs Linley Sambourne, who was greatly ambitious for her children, would have felt faint had she known that her great grandson, Antony Armstrong-Jones, was to marry Princess Margaret and honour the family name by giving his son the courtesy title Viscount Linley.

□ **Brodsworth Hall**, Brodsworth, near Doncaster. Open Tues-Sun and Bank Holiday Mons, 1pm-6pm. Tel: 01302-722508. Linley Sambourne House, 16 Stafford Terrace, London, W8. Open until end Oct, Wed 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-5pm.

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Until the introduction of crinoline in the early 1850s, the huge bell-shaped skirts had been achieved with layer upon layer of petticoats

From lace corsets to crinoline

New designs and materials gave women far greater freedom of movement

EVERY morning during their honeymoon at Windsor Castle, Prince Albert helped his young wife into her black silk stockings. It was a tricky procedure, which most ladies of rank left to the nimble fingers of their maids. Hoops at the stocking tops were joined with ribbons to a suspender belt around the waist. "It was the happiest time of my life," the Queen wrote in her diary.

The youthful Victoria's waist was then a svelte 18 inches — it would later expand to a magnificent 46 inches in the final years of her reign. While never greatly interested in fashion, the Queen was acutely aware of the need to patronise British goods.

A series of dances were held at Buckingham Palace in the 1840s and 1850s to support the ailing Spitalfields silk weaving industry. Two thousand guests were invited to attend the first *bal costumé* in 1842 — all wearing fancy dress made from Spitalfields silk. The event was a great success, with the *Times* commenting later that there had been "an extraordinary improvement" in the industry. Following her husband's death in 1861,

the Queen wore black for 40 years. It was left to Princess Alexandra of Denmark, the elegant wife of the future Edward VII, to lead the way in fashion. It was partly her fondness for tailored suits and yachting outfits that ensured the popularity of these off-the-peg clothes. The introduction of crinoline in the early 1850s revolutionised women's clothing. Until then, the huge bell-shaped skirts had been achieved with layer upon layer of petticoats alone weighing 10lb. "It must have been like walking through treacle," says Sarah North, textiles curator at

the Victoria and Albert Museum. The lightweight springy steel-framed crinolines meant women enjoyed greater movement, although some Wimbledon players complained that their corsets were bloodstained after matches.

The Rational Dress Society, formed by Viscountess Harberton in 1881, protested against "any fashion that either deforms the figure, impedes the movement of the body, or in any way tends to injure health". But not all women wanted to be liberated from their corsets: "Stick to your stays, ladies, and triumph over the other sex!" urged the editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

□ **The Victoria and Albert Museum**, Old Brompton Road, London. Open Mon, 12.5-5pm, Tues-Sun, 10am-5.50pm. Dresses and undergarments worn by Queen Victoria can be seen at the Museum of London, London Wall, until November. Open Tues-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 12.5-5pm. Closed Mon except Bank Holidays.



Crinoline: lightweight

back muscles and crooked spines. As early as 1834, Dr Andrew Combe of Edinburgh was warning that women sought the ideal "spider waist" at great cost to their health. But when Amelia Bloomer launched her controversial trousers and overskirt de-

sign in America in 1851, British ladies were not impressed.

The popularity of croquet, lawn tennis and bicycle-riding from the 1870s onwards ensured that womenswear became more practical, although some Wimbledon players complained that their corsets were bloodstained after matches.

The Rational Dress Society, formed by Viscountess Harberton in 1881, protested against "any fashion that either deforms the figure, impedes the movement of the body, or in any way tends to injure health". But not all women wanted to be liberated from their corsets: "Stick to your stays, ladies, and triumph over the other sex!" urged the editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

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14.5%	108.54	49.16	16.82	8.11
15.0%	90.03	45.38	15.10	7.00
15.5%	71.52	41.60	13.38	5.89
16.0%	53.01	37.82	11.66	4.78
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Presidents pay lip service to the lens

Intimate portraits of America's First Couples show how Glaswegian clicked at White House

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A KISS is still a kiss, a sigh is still a sigh, even for First Couples. These remarkable photographs of the Reagans kissing and of the Clintons almost kissing were taken by Harry Benson, the Glasgow-born photographer who has made a name for himself on both sides of the Atlantic.

They are from an exhibition of Benson photographs, *First Families: an Intimate Portrait from the Kennedy to the Clintons*, which has just opened at Washington's most popular new attraction, the Newseum, a lavish showcase for print and broadcast journalism.

White House aides told Benson he had exactly five minutes to photograph Mr and Mrs Reagan for the cover of *Vanity Fair*. He was to wait in an anteroom and the couple would drop by on their way to a state dinner.

Benson was not pleased about the treatment. As soon as the aides left, he and his assistant rolled up the carpet and put seamless white paper on the floor and walls to turn the room into a makeshift studio. Mr Reagan came in wearing a dinner jacket. Mrs Reagan was in a long black gown.

The photographer promptly showed some of the Scots canniness that has served him well throughout his career. He flipped on a tape-recorder and the room was filled with Frank Sinatra's *Nancy with the Laughing Face*.

The aides were furious, but the Reagans beamed. They started to dance. Benson clicked away. Then he said: "I'd like a picture of you kissing, because yours is a love story."

Benson recalled: "I had in

"I'd like a picture of you kissing, because yours is a love story"

mind a great Hollywood fadeout, like all those films I'd seen in Glasgow as a boy." The Reagans, both Hollywood stars before politics, willingly obliged. Then Mr Reagan looked at his watch and said he was keeping the President of Chile waiting. The shoot lasted six minutes.

The picture of the Clintons was snapped during their first presidential campaign in 1992 when Mr Clinton was taking a rare breather in a hammock. Benson said: "I like this picture because they don't quite kiss. That makes it more sensuous somehow."

Benson complained in *The Washington Post* that there had been no recent intimate pictures of the Clintons because the White House press staff were keeping photographers out. In contrast to the Reagans, he said, the Clintons did not seem to be having any fun. "If they are having fun and we don't see it, that's a tragedy. Why won't they let me in?" he asked.

The message found its target. The next day President Clinton wrote a "Dear Harry" letter to Benson, complimenting him on his work. It said he had captured the public and private lives of successive presidencies and his images were imbued with warmth.

Holding out a promise of seeing Benson soon, Mr Clinton wrote: "I know that when I do show up, you will still find a way to tell me where to stand and what to do!"

Other highlights from the exhibition include George Bush in the pool with his dog, Jimmy Carter washing his tennis court, Gerald Ford doing the washing up, Betty



Almost, but not quite: the Clintons caught on film during their first presidential campaign. "It seems more sensuous somehow," said Benson

Ford stretching out on the grass, Jackie Kennedy peeking around a door, Rosalynn Carter sitting on her White House bed, and Richard Nixon making his resignation speech to the staff while his wife looks on, her eyes filled with tears.

Benson began his career photographing weddings in Glasgow and, after a stint at Butlin's in Ayr, he joined the weekly *Hamilton Advertiser*.

He covered Scotland for the old *Daily Sketch* before moving to London, where he joined the *Daily Express*. His eye for the unusual led to his work appearing frequently in *Photoworks*, an *Express* feature that initiated the idea of devoting half a page to a noteworthy

picture. Sent to America to cover the first Beatles' tour in 1964, Benson decided to stay. His work has received numerous awards.

Benson's wife, Gigi, is from Texas and they have two daughters, both actresses. Now 67, he said: "Newspapers and magazines are not about photography. They are about interesting pictures. I want to put a camera where it's never been before." His presidential exhibit will move in November to New York, where he lives, and then go on tour around America to all the presidential libraries and museums.

□ New York: A man who sent "disturbing" letters to Chelsea Clinton, the President's daughter, will appear before a court in Washington today charged with violating firearms regulations (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Vladimir Zelenkov, 26, was arrested at his home in Elizabeth, New Jersey, after he tried to make contact with Miss Clinton, claim Federal agents.

The Secret Service is taking "very seriously" the possibility that someone might intend to stalk the President's daughter, who leaves Washington shortly for California, where she will begin a "pre-med" degree at Stanford University.

Security arrangements at her hall of residence are being

reviewed in the light of the latest incident. According to reports, Mr Zelenkov had written "unnerving" letters to Miss Clinton. His friends say that he has an obsession with her and that he often drives from New Jersey to Washington to "meet the President".

Federal agents arrested Mr



Enterprising use of a tape recorder set up this shot of the Reagans at a six-minute White House session

Safety system at Guam airport failed after error in software

FROM JOSEPH COLEMAN IN AGANA, GUAM

A SOFTWARE error crippled an airport radar system that might have prevented last week's fatal crash of a Korean Air jet in Guam, federal investigators said yesterday.

The system, called an FAA Radar Minimum Safe Altitude Warning, normally issues an alert if an aircraft is flying too low and officials on the ground can then alert the pilot.

Federal agents investigating the crash, however, said the system, at the island's Andersen US Air Force Base, was modified recently and an error apparently was inserted into the software.

George Black, a US National Transportation Safety Board investigator, said the software was modified to stop the system from giving too

many false alarms, adding: "The modification modified too much."

Korean Air Flight 801 crashed into a hillside overlooking Guam International Airport on Wednesday morning, killing 225 people. Safety board investigators are trying to discover the cause.

The investigators said the software error could not be pinpointed as the culprit in the crash, but a properly working system could have alerted the pilot to pull the jet to a higher altitude. "This is not a cause—it might have possibly been a prevention," Mr Black said.

The finding is a big piece in putting together the puzzle of the crash. Investigators think the pilot had full control of the jet at the time of the crash and are looking for clues to tell

them why he was flying so low just before the disaster. There were still months of work to be done, officials said.

Even without the warning system, the pilot had several other instruments on hand that could have told him that his aircraft was too close to the hillside.

"This is just one piece," Gregory Feith, the lead investigator, said. "Yes, it would have helped, but this is not, as we know it, the cause of the crash." He added that investigators were not even sure that the system would have issued an alert in this case.

They were drawn to look into the system—and to the US Federal Aviation Administration, which detected the error—when an approach control operator told them he

had not received an alert before the crash.

The warning system was not the only piece of equipment which was not operating on Guam at the time of the crash. The airport's "glide slope"—which helps to guide the pilot to the runway—was out of action for regular maintenance. Many airports, however, do not have glide slopes and pilots use other methods for landing.

The altitude warning system is designed to cover a circular area with a radius of 55 nautical miles. However, since the software was modified, the system has covered only about a mile-wide circular strip that ran the circumference of that area. Flight 801 was not covered when it crashed. (AP)

Brewer plugs ozone-hole fix other science cannot reach

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

FREDDY HEINEKEN, the Dutch beer magnate, claims that the hole in the ozone layer could be repaired in as little as five years.

A study issued by Mr Heineken's private office says there are two feasible methods for closing the gap in the layer of atmospheric gases which protects the earth from harmful ultraviolet rays.

Mr Heineken, who is no longer involved in the day-to-day running of the brewery, the world's second largest, said: "Manufacturers of sun oil with factor-25 protection will be against it. But let's be serious, there are two promising methods to repair the hole."

One method, being developed by an American scientist,

aims to use negatively-charged droplets of water to break down chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), the agents believed to have caused the hole.

The other, the brainchild of a Russian scientist, would deploy microwave generators to break down the offending compounds, which are used in refrigerator cooling elements and as propellants for aerosols.

Egbert Duursma, a retired oceanography professor, was sponsored by the brewer to compile the study last year. "Mr Heineken has been going on about repairing the ozone layer since 1990, but we academics ignored him. I decided last year it was about time we found out," Professor Duursma said.

The methods appear feasible, but they are still only theories. If field experiments are a success, it will be possible to close the hole. The total cost would be about \$2 billion dollars (£1.2 million), he added.

Professor Alfred Wong, the American plasma physicist, has demonstrated in his laboratory at the University of California that spraying negatively-charged droplets of water into the atmosphere can

break down CFCs, Professor Duursma explained.

His solution would involve the world's 55,000 daily commercial flights each spraying 1,000 litres of negatively-charged water into the atmosphere.

The Russian method, devised by Professor Igor Kossyi of the General Physics Institute in Moscow, involves the use of military microwave generators.

Both schemes are ready for field trials and are each seeking funding of more than \$500,000. The billionaire brewer, however, is not going to stump up the cash. "Sorry, I'm the sower of ideas rather than the reaper. I think Russia and America are better placed than myself to find the sums of money necessary," Mr Heineken said.

The study also highlighted unwillingness of science and industry to repair the whole by technical intervention. "Researchers fear they will lose funding and politicians are already committed to the Montreal protocol, which focuses on reducing the production of CFCs," said Professor Duursma.

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Leading article, page 19

Bonn must keep bridges open to Poland as floodwaters recede

BOTH the German and the Polish Ambassadors have recently written to *The Times* to testify that there is no substantial friction between the two countries on helping flood victims around the River Oder.

A long catalogue of German aid, much of it spontaneously offered, suggests the diplomats are not being diplomatic. There has been some technical criticism of the Central Europeans — about the condition of the dykes and the employing of reservoirs — and in the flood region Germans locate can be seen scurrying about the flotsam and jetsam

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

bobbing their way towards the German part of the Oder. But, on the whole, the neighbours are happy enough with each other. Instead of being

an unpopular Cold War frontier, only reluctantly accepted by many Germans for decades, it has become a way of demonstrating that the Germans, Poles and Czechs have a common interest that goes beyond Nato and European Union enlargement.

Geopolitical thinking is back in vogue in Bonn, so analysts have made much of how the flooding highlights the irrelevance of politically drawn borders. Geopolitics was discredited because one of its leading apologists, Karl Haushofer, was so closely associated with Hitler. Now it is regarded as a way of making sense of Germany's

role at a time of shifting frontiers.

The lesson of the Oder floods is more complex. Germany was indeed quick to help Central Europe, and did so in an imaginative way — its machines are drying out books rescued from Wroclaw University. But Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, did not waste many words on it. Instead, he has focused on the flood as a way of bonding east and west Germany. Every day that sandbags are dropped on the banks, he is showing the sceptical, embittered easterners that Westers are not self-interested carpetbaggers.

The dyke-holding operation has become a political epic with 14,000 mosquito-bitten soldiers as extras. Television presents them, exhausted after work, passing around a hat to add a few marks for the flood victims.

The east Germans seemed genuinely touched. Central Europe, which has great expectations of Germany, should realise it will always take second place to this kind of strenuous nation-building. It is important to Germany, but not that important.

In this respect Poland cannot hope to enjoy a relationship with Bonn

that matches the Franco-German axis. For Paris, Germany is willing (though with more reluctance) to ditch or downgrade some of its national priorities. For Warsaw or Prague, the German commitment is less far-reaching. European entry negotiations will be an acid test where Germany stands.

Claudio Magris's brilliant book *Danube* traced the river connections, established before and during the Austro-Hungarian Empire, that created a common culture stronger than the divisions imposed by Communist rule. The Oder, too, has a river culture that stretches back

centuries and colours the German attitude to Silesia. But the Oder is not the Danube.

For everything from bread rolls to striptease shows — than co-operation.

The Oder operation marks the limits of geopolitics. Germany has been a good neighbour. There is mutual respect, and in many ways their relationship with Poland is more dynamic than the Franco-German friendship.

But the relationship demands constant attention. It is too easy at the moment for Germany to turn inwards and concentrate on its own problems. Even when the Oder waters have receded, the Chancellor would do well to carry on building bridges.

Prodi worried by Germans' euro 'paralysis'

FROM DEBORAH COLLIOTT IN FRANKFURT

ROMANO PRODI, the Italian Prime Minister, has given a warning that the political paralysis gripping Germany could be harmful to the future of the single currency.

In an interview with the *Welt am Sonntag* newspaper, Professor Prodi also proposed that Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, should be elected as head of the European Monetary Institute, which will become the European central bank.

"I do not like Germany when it is as paralysed as now," Professor Prodi said. "I am afraid of a Germany that is afraid."

Referring indirectly to a series of parliamentary logjams which have prevented Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) from implementing tax and pension reforms vital to reducing unemployment and boosting the economy, Professor Prodi said Germany needed to flex its political muscle once more. "Uncertainty is more than anything else, harmful to the process of European integration," he said.

Professor Prodi added that some of Herr Kohl's colleagues were creating trouble

by making Italy's proposed admission to the currency union in the first wave in 1999 a "domestic political" issue before next year's German election.

Asked for his reaction to remarks by some CDU politicians that Herr Kohl would lose the election if Italy joined economic and monetary union, Professor Prodi said:

"That is a serious and dangerous mistake. I have one goal — that Italy joins the currency union, and I have asked my country to make sacrifices for that. I have put my own career at stake. It is not right that the fate of Italy can be sacrificed for the careers of German politicians."

Professor Prodi said that the economies of Italy and other countries throughout Europe had suffered since the fall of communism because the Bundesbank raised interest rates to head off inflation after German unification in 1990.

"It was OK that we had to pay for that, but now it is Germany's turn to understand the historical development," Professor Prodi said.

He refused to be drawn on a timetable for the launch of the euro, but Professor Prodi said

he was confident it would be soon. "I am sure the euro is our future. In my view, there isn't any other country in Europe that has demanded of its citizens more than Italy to make the country fit for the euro."

Meanwhile, Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, called on Herr Kohl to reshuffle his Cabinet ahead of the autumn 1998 election.

Without naming names, Herr Waigel told the *Spiegel* magazine that only ministers and state secretaries who want to serve in the new legislative period, after the election should remain in their jobs.

"I advise Helmut Kohl to take the team into the election with which he wants to work after the election," said Herr Waigel. "He said he had a message for those hoping to stay in office until then. 'Friend, it would have been nice, but now we have to select a new team.'

Herr Waigel's comments, which contrast with a statement issued by the Chancellor before he went on holiday last week that there would be no reshuffle before the election, indicate that the possibility has not been ruled out.



Princess Elena of Spain on a yacht during the King's Cup sailing competition off Majorca, where the Spanish royal family is spending its summer holiday

Comoros conflict

PARIS: The Comoros Government, according to a separatist spokesman, landed troops on the Indian Ocean island of Anjouan at the weekend to try to quell secessionist protests in favour of a return to French rule (Susan Bell writes).

The French Foreign Ministry refused to confirm the reports, saying that it had

received conflicting information. France recently announced plans to decrease its influence in its former African colonies.

The protesters are envious of the comparative prosperity of the inhabitants of the neighbouring island of Mayotte, who voted by referendum to remain French.

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Karadzic rival to form own party

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

BILJANA PLAVSIC, the president of the Bosnian Serb republic, is to launch a new political party in her battle to wrest power from the shadowy forces of Radovan Karadzic, her predecessor.

Mrs Plavsic has been encouraged by Richard Holbrooke, the US special envoy, to oppose hardline Serbs loyal to Dr Karadzic.

Mr Holbrooke says that Nato's mandate under the Dayton peace accord must be

reinterpreted to allow international troops to disarm and arrest Dr Karadzic's clandestine police network.

By forming a new party, to be called the Serb Party of Republika Srpska, Mrs Plavsic hopes to woo the less fanatical wing of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) from which she has been expelled.

Milos Prica, Mrs Plavsic's head of Cabinet, said: "People are sick of the bribery, corruption and robbery."

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£20,000	5.00%	—	4.00%
£10,000	4.50%	—	3.60%
£5,000	4.00%	—	3.20%
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£10,000	3.25%	—	2.60%
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This week *The Times* gives you the chance to win one of seven fabulous Piaggio scooters worth approximately £1,600 in total.

Scooters are the 90s way to get about: fast, safe, ideal for getting about in traffic jams, as environmentally friendly as motorised wheels get, and costing about three pence a mile to run.

The Vespa, a recognised style icon, was first created 50 years ago and more than 15 million have been sold worldwide. Today we feature the Liberty with an on-the-road price of £1,499. It has a 50cc two-stroke air-cooled engine and an easy twist-and-go automatic transmission so gear changing is unnecessary. The large 16in wheels with low profile tyres give a comfortable ride.

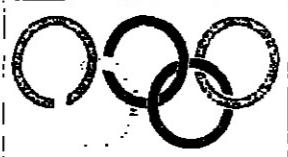
over different road surfaces and a powerful 220mm front disc brake adds secure stopping power. It comes with Piaggio's unique three-year unlimited mileage warranty.

Other Piaggio scooter prizes on offer this week are: two Vespa ET2s; a Vespa ET4; an NRG, a Zip SP (Sport Production) and a Hexagon 125cc.

HOW TO ENTER
Collect four tokens from *The Times* this week and send them with the entry form, appearing on Thursday, stating which scooter you would like to win. The closing date is Friday September 12, 1997. Readers must be over 16 to enter.

Green alliance fights to kill off Roman Games

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME



ROME is increasingly confident it will be chosen soon to host the Olympics in 2004. Preparations are in full swing and the Government has signed up Luciano Pavarotti to serenade the opening ceremony, *La Repubblica* reported.

But with less than a month to go before the winner of the competition to host the Games is announced, influential Italian environmental groups have launched a last-ditch drive to undermine Rome's increasingly ebullient campaign, led by Francesco Rutelli, the left-wing Mayor. Leading members of the Green Party and Italia Nostra, the equivalent of English Heritage, said that Rome was unable to cope with preparations for the millennium and its ancient, crowded streets "of unmatched historic and artistic value" were completely unsuitable either for thousands of millennium pilgrims or for an influx of tourists and sports fans in 2004.

The critics, under the banner "Campaign against the Rome Olympics", accuse Signor Rutelli, himself a former leading Green, of allowing Italy's big building firms to profit from huge "white elephant" projects, known in Italian as "cathedrals in the desert". Such projects include allegedly unusable stadiums for games such as baseball, not an Italian pastime, and "unwanted" housing for 9,000 journalists at Torre Spaccata, an inconvenient and rundown area on the city outskirts.

Signor Rutelli says he has every confidence in Rome's qualifications: "We will do a magnificent job." He has staked his prestige on projects designed to make Rome fit for 2004 and the Olympics four years later. The International Olympic Committee will announce early next month whether Rome's bid has beaten Athens, Stockholm, Buenos Aires and Cape Town.

But Romans are becoming increasingly irritated by the

makers. Signor Rutelli and the "Rome 2004" Committee are alleged to have "grossly exaggerated" the number of hospitals in the capital and the efficiency of its telephone service, while underestimating the level of crime.

There is also controversy over plans to build an Olympic village to accommodate 18,000 athletes and officials at Tor Vergata, the suburban campus of one of Rome's three universities. Transport between the Olympic venues and sights in the crowded centre, such as the Vatican and the Colosseum, will be a nightmare, the report says. "The 2004 Committee fraudulently claims that it takes 23 minutes to get into town from the main airport at Fiumicino and 17 minutes from the second airport at Ciampino... anyone who lives in Rome knows that is a joke."

On finance, the critics describe Signor Rutelli's claim that the Olympics will "make Rome rich" as "propaganda". They say: "The Olympics are profitable for sponsors and merchandising, but the people are left with debts."

The Olympics are profitable for sponsors, but the people are left with debts

the construction bosses who stand to gain from projects linked to the millennium or the Olympics, or in some cases both, are also on the official committees allocating contracts. Italy, they say, is repeating the errors of the 1990 football World Cup, when huge sums of public money were "squandered" on new stadiums, one of which, in Turin, is in raze because of building flaws and high running costs.

Rome is being "choked by benzene and ozone pollution", the report says, and has inadequate public transport and rubbish disposal arrangements. In their attempts to impress the Olympic decision-



Spaniards Abel Antón, right, the gold medallist, and Martin Fiz (silver) finish the world championships marathon in Athens yesterday

Fans banned in Athens security purge

FROM PHILIP PANGALOS
IN ATHENS

GREEK athletics fans have been barred from the national stadium for the past two days of the World Athletics Championships as city officials went into a near panic over security.

They feared a repeat of the bomb blast at the Stockholm Olympic stadium last Friday. In Sweden, the explosion has reinforced determination to go ahead with the bid for the Olympics of 2004. In Athens, opinions are mixed. Some Greeks are hoping that a textbook security operation over the past ten days has boosted the chances of the Athens bid.

Greek authorities and security services have worked around the clock to guarantee security in Athens during

the sixth championships held over the first ten days of August. The authorities postponed all summer leave for more than 8,000 police officers, while heavily armed special forces units were assigned to help in the security of 20,000 athletes from 200 countries.

The Athens General Directorate called in the extra police and heavily armed special forces units to provide additional security at the airport as well as at the Olympic Stadium, where most of the events have been held, and at the capital's leading hotels and all other facilities where athletes and visitors have been present. It is understood that teams from countries that could have been the target of terrorist attacks, such as Israel and the United States, have been surrounded by even tighter security. Traffic police have covered all the main routes from

the hotels where the athletes have been staying, as well as those of visiting dignitaries and the world's media, to ensure swift journeys to and from venues.

Additionally, inspections have been strict for spectators entering the Olympic Stadium and the Marble Stadium, the venue of the opening ceremony, and the marathons as well as the home of the first modern Olympics held in Athens in 1896.

The Greek efforts, which also encompass a clean-up of central Athens, the repaving and washing of roads and the much-needed planting of shrubbery, appear to have paid off at a time when the Swedish bid to host the 2004 Games suffered a setback after last week's bombing. Most observers see Athens and Rome as the two leading contenders to host the 2004

Olympics. There is a minority of Greeks opposed to the 2004 Olympics, largely on cost grounds, but the majority is strongly in favour, especially after the national disappointment that came after losing to Atlanta over the 1996 bid. Infrastructure projects are well under way in the Greek capital, including the construction of the Athens metro and a new international airport at Spata, near the capital.

Greeks are often the butt of European jokes about their organisational skills, but Athenians may have the last laugh next month after hosting a relatively well-organised world championships which should, in turn, strengthen their bid to host the 2004 Olympics.

Athens athletics, page 24

Bitter Atlanta still licks its wounds

A SARDONIC joke heard in Atlanta nowadays is that the only amateurs left in the Olympic village after 2004 are the unfortunate civic leaders forced to organise them.

A year on, Atlantans still feel bruised by their 17 steamy days in the world spotlight -

One year on, many in the city that held the last Olympics regret the whole affair, reports Ian Brodie in Washington

the FBI began wondering if the explosion was the work of an outraged vendor.

Billy Payne, the property lawyer who almost single-handedly persuaded the International Olympic Committee to choose Atlanta, has not received the national hero status accorded to Peter Ueberroth, who made \$225 million on the 1996 Olympics in Los Angeles and donated it to sport.

The Atlanta Olympics are said to have broken even, although the latest balance sheet had a contingency re-

serve of nearly \$40 million that could become a surplus if unused. Mr Payne now earns \$500,000 a year to round up new business as a vice-president at Nations Bank, a company with which he fostered a close relationship before and during the Games as its first sponsor to pay \$40 million. The bank also took the chance on granting a \$300 million line of credit to Mr Payne's organising committee.

From his office on the fifty-fifth floor of the bank building, he looks back nostalgically to



One part of the Olympic Village for the Centennial Games, the buildings have now been converted by Atlanta into halls of residence for college students

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UN hopes for anti-drug pact with Taliban

UNITED NATIONS drug control officials are on the verge of an unprecedented agreement with the radical Islamic Taliban movement aimed at the progressive elimination of opium cultivation across Afghanistan.

The deal, expected to be signed within the next few weeks, could bring millions of dollars in foreign aid and investment to help rebuild dilapidated irrigation systems and boost a rural economy shattered by 18 years of war and domestic turmoil.

But the agreement will not get the green light if the Taliban leadership issues a public edict declaring that opium cultivation is a violation of Islamic law, and operates with UN officials to reduce the acreage under cultivation.

Giovanni Quaglia, the Italian UN representative who has supervised the delicate three-month negotiation with Taliban, is confident that the mullahs will bow to the growing international pressure to curb the opium trade.

"The UN Drug Control Programme has been quietly urging Taliban to take an active stand against cultivation. This will be an acid test. If they don't issue the ban, it will be proof that they are involved in the opium trade and want to do nothing to stop it," said Signor Quaglia.

According to UN calculations, 93 per cent of Afghani-



A deal to eliminate Afghan opium cultivation could be signed within weeks, reports Michael Dynes from Islamabad

stan's annual opium production comes from Taliban-controlled areas. An estimated 200,000 families, about one million people out of a population of 17 million, are involved in the trade.

UN field surveys show that about 165,000 acres of scarce arable land are given over to poppy cultivation, which produces 22,500 tonnes of raw opium a year, most of which is exported to Pakistan, Russia and Europe.

Although the boom in cultivation preceded Taliban's consolidation of power in the southern province of Kandahar in 1994, the Islamic militia nonetheless turned a blind eye to its cultivation, blaming Western decadent "milds".

Like the Mullahs for centuries before, Taliban has levied the usd — 10 per cent tax on all agricultural production. This brings in \$6 million (£3.8 million) a year from the \$60 million Afghan growers and traders earn from opium exports out of a business worth \$40 billion in Europe alone. Signor Quaglia insists, however, that there is no prospect of reducing Afghanistan's opium exports without

Taliban support. Moreover, any attempt to destroy the poppy crop in the fields without providing alternative sources of income for landowners and sharecroppers would boost prices, attract more growers, and make the problem even worse.

Afghan poppies have one of the highest yields in the world, producing about 20lb of raw opium for every two and a half acres, compared with 5lb for a similar area under cultivation in Burma, Signor Quaglia said. Poppies can be cultivated almost anywhere in Afghanistan's vast and remote interior. Consequently, "there is the potential for a colossal increase in poppy cultivation if the drug control programme is not handled with tact".

The boom in poppy cultivation occurred between 1990 and 1994 when the power of the Afghan state disintegrated under the pressure of civil war, and regional commanders were able to grow and trade freely. Although most Afghans feel that it is dishonourable to cultivate opium, they also believe that it is more dishonourable to let one's family go hungry.

From the UN's Drug Control Programme headquarters in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, Signor Quaglia has set up five drug control units in the key Afghan cities of Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-Sharif, which will be responsible for monitoring the compliance with the crop reduction schemes.

Under the terms of the UN's \$16.5 million programme, 70 per cent of which is earmarked for aid and feasibility studies for private sector investment schemes, poppy cultivation must be reduced by 10 per cent a year. Failure to comply will result in suspension of all aid

and investment. The UN Drug Control Programme has made clear that it is willing and able to channel aid and investment into Afghanistan in exchange for the ban, Signor Quaglia said.

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Seismic records □ Fungal hairs □ Holy blood

Singing volcano



**SCIENCE
BRIEFING**
Nigel Hawkes

NOTHING is more exasperating than a low-pitched hum whose source escapes identification. Picture, then, the frustration of Dr Jacques Talandier of the French Atomic Energy Agency and Dr Emile Okal of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, when they discovered on some old seismic records the evidence of a loud rumble echoing through the oceans. The extraordinary feature was that the sound waves were purer than a note from a musical instrument, completely lacking overtones.

The signals they found, recorded by French seismic stations in Polynesia, consisted of a single frequency, typically in the range between three and 12 cycles per second. Was it an animal, or a naval experiment? They looked at both possibilities, but dismissed them.

The sounds typically lasted from seconds to several minutes. *Scientific American* reports, and were especially noticeable between 1991 and 1992. An earthquake would have produced shorter sounds, a whale much higher frequency ones.

The first break came when they were able to pinpoint the source of the rumbles to a poorly surveyed area of the South Pacific. Old charts indicated that there was an underwater volcanic ridge in the area. A visit to the area last year showed that the ridge had a flat top, rising to within 400 feet of the

surface. Samples showed that although no eruption was occurring at the time there had been activity in the recent past.

There are lots of seafloor volcanoes, but they do not usually generate the rumbles identified in the seismic records. The two scientists wondered if the shallow depth might allow bubbles of steam to form and rise through the water, and consulted Dr Bernard Chouet of the US Geological Survey. He ran a computer simulation to see if a rising cloud of bubbles could behave as a resonant cavity, acting as a huge organ pipe.

He found that indeed it was possible for sound waves to bounce to and fro between the sea floor and the surface at a resonant frequency which was independent of the sideways extent of the cloud. So the frequency would remain steady. Overtones would be produced, but the bubbles of steam would be likely to damp out all but a very limited range of frequencies.

So is this the explanation? Maybe, say Drs Talandier and Okal, who published it in the *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America* under the heading "Volcanological Speculations". *Scientific American* suggests that they should have started celebrating earlier, because the rising column of bubbles in a bottle of champagne might have given them the vital clue.

Healthy forest has its roots in sharing



IN A forest, some trees stand in the sun and others in the shade — yet all seem to flourish reasonably well. Some ingenious experiments in British Columbia have shown that an underground network of fungal hairs links the trees together and is used to carry a flow of carbon — the energy currency of plants — between them.

Dr Suzanne Simard and colleagues from the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, planted birch, fir and cedar seedlings in groups of three. To label the carbon made by each, they briefly surrounded the seedlings with plastic bags filled with carbon dioxide containing different carbon isotopes. The plants took up the carbon, incorporating it into the carbohydrates they made.

When they analysed the carbon in the different seedlings two years later, they found, they report in *Nature*, that the fir seedlings in deep shade had obtained a tenth of their carbon from birch seedlings, through shared fungi. The cedars had gained nothing, because they do not share fungi with either of the two other species. The results show that trees can co-operate as well as compete, and emphasise once more the value of a diverse forest.

Another saintly miracle dyes

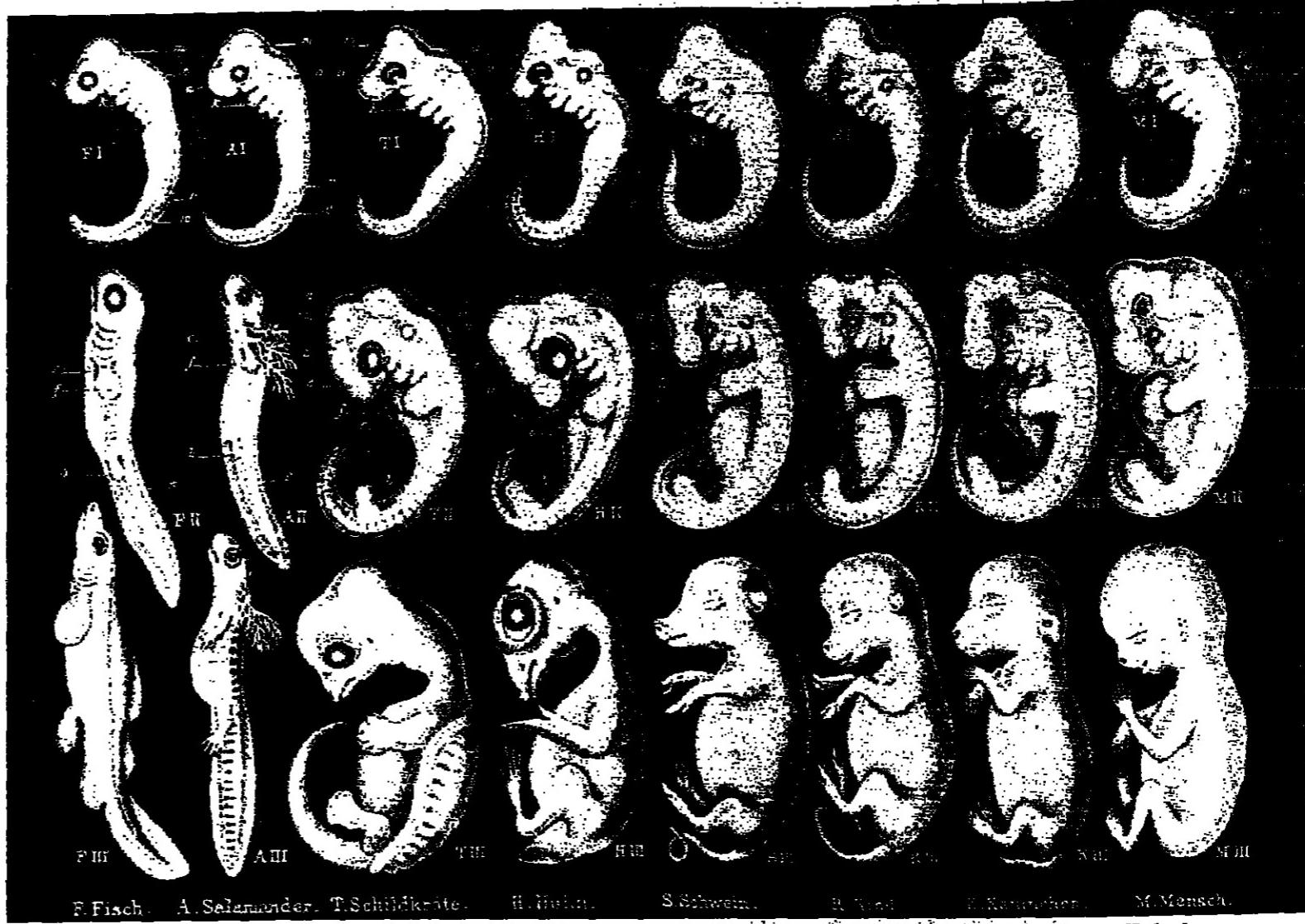


DOCTOR Luigi Garlaschelli of the University of Pavia delights in debunking the treasured relics of the Roman Catholic Church. The latest to fall under his scrutiny is the blood of St Lorenzo (St Lawrence), martyred by the Roman emperor Valerian in 258. Yesterday was the saint's feast day, so the congregation in the church near Naples where his blood is stored will have awaited the annual miracle — its liquefaction.

Dr Garlaschelli has examined the glass phial containing the blood, and reports in *Chemistry in Britain* that it consists of three layers of material, only the middle one of which liquefies, producing a clear ruby red fluid. This really happens, but how?

He tried shaking, which had no effect, and then gentle heating. At a temperature of 30°C the middle layer duly melted, suggesting that the miracle is a simply matter of temperature. He believes that it is not blood, which would long ago have lost its colour, but a mixture of fats, waxes and a red dye.

The movement of the relic from its usual sheltered niche to the altar for the feast day would perhaps be enough to provide the small increase in temperature that is needed for the "blood" to liquefy.



Above Haeckel's drawings of how fully fledged organisms develop from different embryos. Below: how they really look



An embryonic liar

One of the most famous biologists of the 19th century has been accused of being a scientific fraud, a faker who has muddied the waters of embryology for generations.

As famous in his day as Darwin, Ernst Haeckel was a giant among German biologists. His fame was so great that his popular work *Welträtsel* (*The Riddle of the Universe*), published in 1899,

sold 100,000 copies in its first year. One follower wrote that his name "will become a shining symbol that will glow for centuries. Generations will pass, new ones will arise, nations will fall, thrones will totter, but the wise old genius of Jena will outlast all."

In fact, Haeckel's ideas about evolution did not last long at all. But one has proved pervasive, emerging again and again in successive editions of textbooks, and underlying much of the thinking about how a fully fledged organism develops from a simple embryo. Now a lecturer at St George's Hospital Medical School in London, Dr Michael Richardson, has shown that even this Haeckel's last bequest to science, is deeply flawed.

"This is one of the worst cases of scientific fraud," says Dr Richardson. "It's shocking to find that somebody one thought was a great scientist was deliberately misleading. It makes me angry."

His attack, in the August issue of *Anatomy and Embryology*, centres on some drawings originally published by Haeckel in 1874. They purport to show that as embryos, all species look remarkably similar: fish, salamanders, turtles, chickens, pigs, cows, rabbits and humans all start life as the same simple shape, developing their characteristic form later.

This point was central to Haeckel's view of evolution, summed up in the ringing phrase "ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny". What this means was that ontogeny — the process of development of an individual organism — is a rerun, fast-forward, of the evolution of the species as a whole. In other words, our development in the womb recapitulates the rise of man from primitive creature to lord of creation.

Haeckel's drawings survive in a modified form in books as authoritative as *Gray's Anatomy* and a textbook for medical students *Developmental Biology*, by Dr Scott Gilbert of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

Dr Richardson says everybody who studies medicine sees these pictures, but that he always felt there was something wrong. He could find no evidence to prove it, so he set

unreasonable. Many embryologists therefore still cling to the wreckage of Haeckel's theory.

Dr Richardson has presented his results at conferences, where they have caused a stir. "German delegates tend to be upset that their hero is under fire, while some Americans worry that criticising Haeckel will give ammunition to the anti-Darwin creationists."

He believes that exposing the forgery is important because Haeckel's ideas have enjoyed an unexpected renaissance as a result of discoveries in molecular biology. Geneticists have found that many species share the same set of genes, called homeobox genes, which are responsible for the early stages of development. If they share the same genes, suggesting that they share the same shape does not appear

to accumulate it. "Modern embryologists don't do comparative work," he says. "They work on chicks or mice, or toads, or zebrafish. They don't compare one embryo with another — that's been out of fashion for half a century."

He assembled an international team of collaborators, collecting marsupial embryos from Australia, Puerto Rican tree frogs, snakes from France, and an alligator embryo from Manchester, among others.

He found that contrary to what Haeckel had asserted, the embryos of different species are not all the same. In fact, they are so different that the drawings Haeckel made could not possibly have been done from life. "What he did was to take a human embryo and copy it, pretending that

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No longer daddy's girl?



Bell & son: Melissa and Martin during the campaign

Melissa Bell gave her all to help her father, Martin, win his Tatton seat. Now a former Army major has won her heart. Interview by Grace Bradberry

It has been a good summer for Melissa Bell, 24-year-old daughter of Martin Bell, the new MP for Tatton. As her father's chief canvasser, she was the undisputed heroine of the general election, his Secret Weapon against the Hamiltons. Against the odds, her father netted one of the country's safest Tory seats. Now Melissa has bagged her own prize, a 37-year-old former Army major, Peter Bracken. They are to marry next summer — "Dad needs time to recover from the shock," says Melissa, flashing a smile over her champagne glass.

"They became engaged in June — barely two months after meeting but there happened to be a half-bottle of champagne in the fridge at Martin Bell's house in Hampstead Garden Suburb, where they were based as a BBC correspondent. Her parents split up in 1968, after Bell's affair with an American journalist, Rebecca Sobel. Melissa was 15 when Bell split from Sobel, though it was a couple of years before she discovered that she and her younger sister had been a source of friction.

"She was always very nice to us, but apparently she didn't like children very much. Dad left his home — was our home. He wasn't going to get pushed around and I appreciated that if I'd felt shut out from my father, it would have been awful. Because I saw both my parents so much and felt so close to both, things were OK."

Melissa, who studied politics at Warwick University, was working in Brussels in the marketing department of Reuters when she saw her father's first press conference. "I had never seen him scared before. I called him that night and said, 'Are you OK?'. He sounded scared. He said twice, 'I'm really lonely'. That was it,

reappearing. "I knew he had a girlfriend. I went to the trouble of finding out."

"They had what Peter calls

**Daughters
adore
their dads,
if they're
halfway
decent!**



Melissa and her fiancé, Peter Bracken: He swears he had no thoughts of seducing the candidate's daughter

next morning. I was on the plane." Arriving an hour after Bell's encounter with the Hamiltons on Knutsford Heath, she found "a very shaken Dad", so she quit her job and headed his campaign. Her public adoration of her father was a boost to the campaign. "I guess a daughter always adores her father if she's got a halfway decent one. You just generally have a bond with your dad, more than with your mum," she says, as though this were incontrovertible.

She made up for that during the election campaign. Contrary to reports, Peter did not get much of a look in. "We had embryonic feelings for each other," he says. The turning point came when Peter went with Melissa to a hostile meeting with 100 Hamilton supporters in Great Budworth. "That was when I decided... she swallows the word decided, but Peter was clearly a marked man from then on. She did not know if her father would come. There were calls of: 'It's a bit bloody rude if he doesn't turn up.' I was scared, and I felt better knowing Peter was there. There was definitely something..."

Ten minutes later, Martin arrived. "In 15 minutes the room was completely converted." And Melissa had acquired a second hero.

They spent the weekend after the election together, then Melissa returned to Brussels, to take up a different job. Peter flew out most weekends, or she came here. "It was intense from the start. It wasn't like we said, 'See you some time'."

Peter says the marriage proposal, as Melissa was cooking pasta in his Bristol flat, was unplanned. "We were hanging round the kitchen on an ordinary Friday evening."

Was she surprised? "Yes. It had crossed my mind, not that he would ask, but that I'd like him to ask. It took me a few seconds to work out whether he was serious. He said, 'Marry me'. Two seconds later, I said, 'Yes'."

As a child of divorced parents, she might have been expected to think about it longer. She says her parents'

break-up has made her take marriage more seriously: "I wouldn't have accepted unless I knew I would make it work. I never thought marriage was important, but then you meet the person and you know."

Peter recognises, however, that they were both at turning points. "Melissa was wondering about her future, as I was mine. There was a sense of adventure about it, and that affected our outlooks, too." It was not until the day after the engagement that Melissa called her father. "He asked me to call him back so he had time to sit down and absorb the shock. I called him an hour later, and he'd had a couple of drinks and seemed more relaxed. I think what really worries him is the idea of becoming a grandfather one day."

Afterwards, they called Melissa's mother, who was holidaying in Normandy. "She'd met Peter by then and was very enthusiastic about the idea."

Peter called his mother. He has no memory of his father, who left when Peter was three, and there has been no contact. "His lack of curiosity is find breathtaking," says Peter. His father is not even aware that one of Peter's sisters, Linda, has died of cancer.

It is in stark contrast to Melissa's relationship with Martin, which Peter dub "charming". The two men have bonded. Melissa says: "Dad came home from the bank the other day mumble he'd been asked to pay off my overdraft. He told Peter this was the official handover."

It is impossible not to wonder if Peter is another father figure. Melissa puts the age gap down to chance. "I've never had a boyfriend as old as Peter — always under 30 at

least. It's a lot when you think about it, but we look and act the same age."

Melissa wants to marry in Tatton: "Just because it seems appropriate." There is a beautiful church in Great Budworth, where her father now lives, but the vicar made his pro-Hamilton, anti-Bell feelings clear in a Parish newsletter. "So that's clearly out of the question, unless we can oust the vicar. You can't do that as easily as ousting a politician."

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TOMORROW

'My father thought I was crazy. My husband would never dream of going. Only my mother seemed to understand.' Sue Corrigan goes to Lourdes

A Princess who deserves romance

It may be a big surprise, but she's entitled to it, says Alan Hamilton

Diana, Princess of Wales, once described herself as being as thick as a plank. This is patently not so. She may not spend her evenings analysing Proust, but any woman who can manipulate the world's media to the extent that they will fall over their chequebooks for a set of fuzzy and inconclusive pictures of her in the company of her new man is clearly in possession of a fair degree of nous.

The build-up was brilliant. On holiday at Mohamed Al Fayed's villa in St Tropez, she made sure the cameras had ample opportunity to capture her in leopardskin swimsuit, at the peak of physical condition and looking at 36, better than she has done for years. Then she sailed out to the launch carrying the British royal rapscallion, the so-called *crème de la scum*, and told them: "You are going to get a big surprise at the next thing I do."

Lest the plot became too utterly vacuous, she next announced a forthcoming visit to Hong Kong to support a hospice charity, and a trip into the still-dangerous territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina in pursuit of her anti-landmines campaign. The tabloid appetite for news of the Princess is permanently insatiable, but it had now been hooded to a particularly keen edge.

So when last week an Italian paparazzo offered a set of grainy long-lens pictures of the Princess embracing a hunk of Arab manhood, the bidding became frenzied. The photographer is reportedly £3 million better off, despite the fact that had the key picture been developed at Boots, it would have come back with one of those fault stickers saying "Out of focus".

The story is perfid. The Princess's latest catch, if catch he is, is the son of the man who owns our top grocery store and who helped to bring down the last Government by the judicious use of brown envelopes, but who has still failed in his ambition of owning a British passport. He cannot but be grinning from ear to ear that his child has captivated the mother of the next king but one.

Dodi Fayed belongs to that cast of characters who inhabit the pages of *Hello!* magazine: he is the world of Mediterranean yachts, apartments in London — where he entertained the Princess to dinner on Thursday — New York and Los Angeles, and B-list celebrities for company. He is 41, divorced, and known for

squiring the sort of not-quite-famous women referred to in Hollywood as "arm candy".

Tony Rowland, arch enemy of the Fayedys, observed (from the deck of his own yacht in Monte Carlo) that the pair were well suited, on the ground that both were light on intellectual wattage.

Tabloid speculation meanwhile, is on a mission to Mars, with assertions that Dodi is off to buy a ring and quotes from "friends" that this is the real thing at last. How frighteningly useful to have friends who keep the press posted on one's private life; it saves the trouble of doing it oneself.

Whatever the truth of the matter, the Princess deserves a fulfilling physical and emotional relationship after the chill and cheating of marriage and her brush with the scoundrel James Hewitt. Dodi's world is somewhat removed



Meeting of two worlds

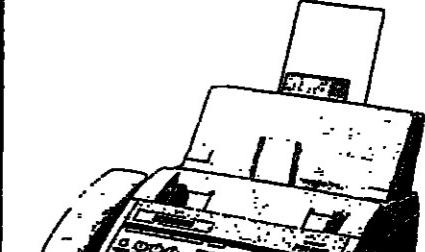
from the one that she left, although it is one where they have the means to keep intruders at bay. It was a world that Jackie Kennedy fell into with a degree of relief: marriage to Aristotle Onassis gave her security both financial and physical.

The Princess claimed recently that her children had urged her to live abroad to escape constant press hounding. But she is more than happy to use the press when it suits her in her admirable landmine campaign as well as in her Riviera swimsuit appearances. Given that she is the mother of the future monarch, she is never going to be left alone by the media, even if she were to slip permanently into Dodi's *demi-monde*.

Everyone will wish the Princess well, although the cynical may wonder if she is merely cocking a snook at her past connections, and the concerned may worry that the rebound is not the best moment for good judgment. If the earth moves for her, we shall all hope that it is not as a result of her treading on one of her own emotional landmines.

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Flower of Scotland in finest array

John Russell Taylor visits the Edinburgh Festival's big visual art shows, dedicated to two of the country's most famous painters and one remarkable collector

For once, in this, the 50th anniversary Edinburgh International Festival, several of the major exhibitions presented by the National Galleries of Scotland are intimately bound up with art in Scotland. And the most prominent of them, that devoted to Sir Thomas Raeburn at the Royal Scottish Academy, reinstates a major Scottish artist to his rightful place as a major artist.

Raeburn (1756-1823) is described by the organisers of the exhibition as "by far the best-known of all Scottish painters". That may well be so, but if so it is perhaps not saying much for the fame of



Scottish painters in general. Outside Scotland, at least, the response of many cultivated people might well be: I know the name, but remind me of an image. Nowadays the quickest reminder would probably be the graceful, bizarre picture of the Rev Robert

Walker, the Skating Minister, progressing determinedly on one foot across a frozen loch. Contemporaries would have been astonished at our familiarity with this painting, so untypical of Raeburn and so obscure until 1949, when it was bought by the National Gallery of Scotland and caught the imagination of the world, becoming the gallery's virtual trademark.

Contrary to what this painting might suggest, Raeburn was primarily a portraitist of the (locally) great and famous, and portrayed them in a pretty traditional fashion. But contrary to what that might suggest, he was full of humour and mischief. He could summon up the grand manner when he wanted to, but was very happy to paint such notables as General Francis Dundas and his wife at the end of a chess game which has evidently not gone in his favour, as well as painting children and dogs, all of whom he takes seriously and uncritically on their own terms as idiosyncratic individuals.

Another famous image (although more to the Victorians than ourselves) is *Boy and Rabbit*, his stepson Henry Raeburn Inglis with friend, which he chose to send to the Royal Academy as his diploma

Hals, but also looks astonishingly forward to another of the National Galleries' chosen subjects this year. Sargent. The Sargent exhibition, *Portrait of a Lady*, is just next door in the National Gallery itself, and finds its Scottish connection in the lady in question, Lady Agnew, whom Sargent's 1892 portrait made famous as it made him famous.

The show is what we have come to think of as a typical Timothy Clifford extravaganza. Clifford, supremo of the Scottish National Galleries, believes passionately in context: showing the paintings along with furniture and applied arts of the time, embowering the Carrara sculptures of Canova in flowers no less dazzlingly white than they. This time one has a



Sir Henry Raeburn's portrait of Sir John and Lady Clerk of Penicuik (1791), one of the works in the Royal Scottish Academy's tribute to "the best-known Scottish painter".

feeling that the scent of tuberose should be piped in to complete the illusion of turn-of-the-century life for the rich and famous.

But a serious point is made. There has been something of a reaction against Sargent's sybaritic celebration of sheer luxury in his painting, but for a true painter what matters is whether or not it accords with current prejudices and puritanisms.

The show gathers together a stunning collection of Sargent's society portraits from all over the world to recreate a whole scene, that of the Agnews and their friends, and to show how Sargent used his brilliant technique to

transmute what was quite possibly vulgar and ostentatious in its time into absolutely timeless art.

The other Scottish patron celebrated for this festival was much more unassuming: what interested Gabrielle Keiller (1908-1995) was the art of others rather than building her own image. Fame she had anyway achieved for herself on the golf course: her interest in modern art did not begin to flourish until she was in her fifties, when she was inspired by a visit to Peggy Guggenheim's collection in Venice in 1960 and the presentation of Eduardo Paolozzi's work at the Venice Biennale the same year.

But once the passion was kindled, it was complete and obsessive. By the time of her death, she owned more than 70 works by Paolozzi,

and one of the most extensive and significant private collections of the Surrealists and their relations in the world. All of these have been left to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, and are on show now as a unity before being integrated into a collection which already contains most of the Roland Penrose Surrealist collection and some choice works that once belonged to Edward James. This makes the Edinburgh gallery one of the best equipped in the world for Surrealist works of art.

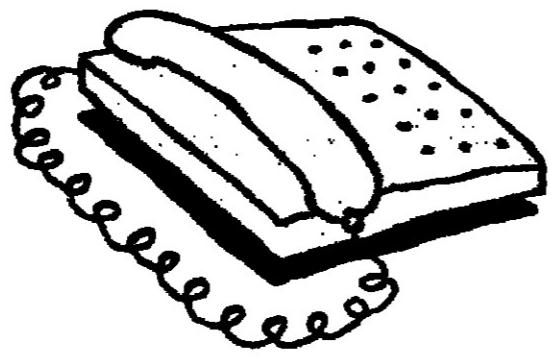
The interesting thing about the Keiller collection, apart from its size (more than 170 works) and quality, is the way that the collector's interests ranged well beyond the central Surrealist corpus, but always within the same recognisable

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High camp on a high wire

ONE of the best games for aficionados of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe is spotting the show that will become the acclaimed hit.

Acrobats is put together by nine Australians who bill themselves as Australia's most outrageous circus company. En route to performances in Edinburgh, they treated visitors to last week's tenth Stockton International Riverside Festival to an electrifying display of tumbling skills, tightrope walking and trapeze work. This is high camp in a big top, sheer physicality interspersed with raw Aussie

verse objects with a personal patter.

The festival's first music commission was a collaboration between Brit award nominee John Surman and Northumbrian pipes doyenne Kathryn Tickell, a meeting of jazz saxophone and traditional

music. Also specially commissioned was DC Events' *The Street of the Moon*, a floating spectacular on the Tees based on Robert Graves' poem *The White Goddess*. This featured a floating swan, a man in a clockwork universe, a volcano defended by dragons and Jap-

anese drummers, a fruit bowl containing an Indonesian gamelan orchestra and a pink iceberg squirting water. Obviously.

DAVID WADMORE

• Acrobats is at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, until Aug 14



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It is not too early to sense the look and vision of Tony Blair's Government. The first 100 days were a roar of energy and ideas. Part of the enjoyment of living in a developed culture is predicting its future, and the purpose of this Government, it seems to me, is no less than to change, and change utterly, the culture of this country, and recharge its character.

On the agenda in politics, in society at large, in education, business and the arts, is the whole perception of what our culture could be. Since the beginning of May, enough markers have been laid down to make it clear that there is a determination to root out what is failing, complacent and rotten in our system and reinvent a country whose greatest epochs — first Elizabethan, high Georgian, mid-Victorian — have always been times of the most positive change. Blair and his colleagues are aiming, I think, at no less, and their determination is to seek the release of blocked energies, new opportunities for young people, devolution and the promotion of independence to declare a bonfire of the old vanities and take an unafraid look at new realities.

Is Jerusalem being builded here?

In my opinion, they are there for at least ten years; no law says that with due care they could not be there for 20 or even more. This is time enough to redirect the people and the culture which, over the centuries, has only languished when badly led.

There is a time to be a touch euphoric, but this is not that time. Any sober assessment of the overall strategy, zest and focus of the past three months would have to recognise that there is a new prospect here, one backed by a well-organised discipline. One hundred days is not too slight a time to judge. Most great novels have great opening chapters. All great music has a great first movement.

Like many others I was apprehensive before the election. I wanted a Labour victory so badly that I feared to want it too much and so bring bad luck. It was not until the days and weeks afterwards that the full "excitement burst" through. There was, of course, relief that a degenerating bunch had gone, but

there was much much more than that. There was a genuine country-wide upsurge of almost visceral pleasure! Yes! Let's go, let's move out of the mire. Time for lift-off.

In that concentrated time of hope lies, I think, the possibility of the deep change which people know must come about if our addiction to decline is not to become the brand of our culture. Again and again — in physics, for instance and in music to take an allied example — it is the quality and fury of the originating moment which shapes the future. The Labour majority of 1997 gives Blair such a moment. So where could this Government

take us? To me, the most important point so far is to observe Blair's commitment, complemented by that of Gordon Brown and others, to take us, all of us, with him. All governments pay lip service to us; some have reached out and touched a majority. But this Government is set on treating the nation as one. Paradoxically, but logically, this means that it realises that the One is a sum of its parts. Scotland, Wales and the Bank of England have benefited from this already and these are, I think, just the opening shots in what seems both an act of faith in the basic intelligence and traditional al-

litanies long. The century has also seen a huge obscurity on all sides to face the present reality. We have not designed or dared to look outside ourselves for too long.

This Government is clearly devoted to change all that. What we may look back on after 20 years is a country which finally said farewell to old restrictive practices and hollow customs charming in retrospect but better left in memory and museums. We may, by then, live in a country which has found a fresh and inventive way to establish new roots in a soil which has nourished so many different successful Britains before this one.

Months before the election, Blair pointed unequivocally to the solution — education. The future is for those with the best-trained minds. Intelligence properly cultivated is needed now for survival as well as for prosperity, as much as ships and soldiers and aircraft were needed in the past.

It means, in effect, bringing about a profound change in the consciousness of this country. But that, it seems to me, is exactly what both the electors and the elected decided to do just over 100 days ago.

This week in THE TIMES



■ OPERA

Mark Morris directs Rameau's opera, *Platée*, at the Edinburgh Festival

OPENS: Tonight

REVIEW: Wednesday



■ DANCE

American choreographer Twyla Tharp presents three new works at Edinburgh

OPENS: Tonight

REVIEW: Wednesday



■ FILM

Jason Patric races to the rescue in the action sequel, *Speed 2*

OPENS: Friday

REVIEW: Thursday

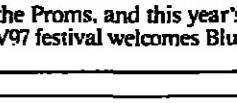


■ POP

As good as its hype? Oasis unveil their third album, *Be Here Now*

RELEASED: Next week

REVIEW: Friday



PLUS: Britten is feted at the Proms, and this year's V&A festival welcomes Blur

JOHN ALLISON

MELVYN BRAGG



The sound of maturity

Prom concerts by the National Youth Orchestra

always have a special atmosphere, and Saturday's was no exception. For one thing, it was being conducted by the NYO's president, Colin Davis; for another, the organisation is celebrating its 50th birthday. Of course, the personnel remain as young as ever, and it was remarkable how these 150 teenagers, the cream of Britain's young orchestral-instrument players, performed a decidedly unfivorous sequence of Tippett, Vaughan Williams and Sibelius like an adult orchestra.

Well, almost. There were moments in Tippett's Ritual Dances from *The Midsummer Marriage* when the collective sound could have been more incisive. And increasing the size of the orchestra, with ten horns to match sepiate woodwind, only increases the chances of the horns fluffing something. But Davis's vast experience of Tippett told in the way he shaped a broad performance full of detail. The composer was present to share the applause.

A very grown-up account of Vaughan Williams's Sixth Symphony followed, taut from beginning to end. The excellent brass section seized every opportunity in the brazen march, and the woodwind were on biting form in the fierce Scherzo. Yet all seemed to understand the work's elegiac tone, and the bleak Moderate was underpinned by uncommonly subtle timpani playing. In the empty desolation of the finale, the strings sustained tension right to the end, only to have their good work undone by the hyperclapper who intruded throughout the evening.

The NYO was especially fortunate to be playing Sibelius's First Symphony under such a distinguished champion of the composer as

DAVIS, who communicated his special feeling for the music to the players. The opening movement had natural flow, with all its strands gathered into climaxes of dark, looming power, and once again the brass were on glowering form. But there was no lack of subtlety here or in the dusky Andante, nor really a slow movement at all.

The strongly nationalist flavour of this programme was nothing compared with that of Friday's late-night Prom, which found Georgia's Rustavi Choir lined up on the Albert Hall stage sporting silver daggers over their tunics. But as the leading exponents of Georgian folk music, this 14-man group proved not only quite harmless but astonishingly versatile, capable of earthiness but also delicacy.

Georgia possesses one of the most sophisticated of folk-music traditions, so there was no lack of variety on the programme. But the "sad songs of Georgia" that so captivated Pushkin are perhaps the most memorable, and highlights here included the haunting lament *Daigaviani* and the lullaby *Nana*.

The Georgians' sound, less sonorous than their Russian counterparts, is almost guitar-like, and several of the songs featured lute-like melismas over close shifting harmonies.

In a varied programme that went back as far as the 4th century and also included drinking songs and two instrumental interludes, the only ingredient that seemed to be missing was dance.

The NYO was especially fortunate to be playing Sibelius's First Symphony under such a distinguished champion of the composer as

JOHN ALLISON

Leopard changes his spots

THEATRE

You are a fortissimo hamster with a plumpness problem and rock-bottom self-esteem. One day a handsome, vaguely gentilish chap drops into the London shop in whose back-room you are slogging your life away. He complimentes you on the "exquisite simplicity of your costume" and then accidentally-on-purpose runs into you in the street.

Before you have recovered, from a lunch date with him, you have learnt that he is a diplomat who was "with General Gordon in Calcutta" and he knows that you recently got a nice nest-egg from your aunt. Thereupon he asks you to marry him at once.

Do you: a) call the police? b) tell him to get lost? c) suggest a period in which you and he get to know each other before signing away your futures? d) ask a trusted friend for advice? e) marry him without telling your family or anybody else and go honeymooning in West-super-Mare?

The little Claire Rayner I keep at the back of my head thinks a), b), c) and d) reasonable options. But Karoline Leach's two-hander requires e) to be the choice. Leach does all she can to make this plausible. She sets the action in 1912, emphasises the need and innocence of Susan Penhaligon's Adelaide and makes it clear that Paul Nicholas's George Love is an experienced wooner and command. But she also creates problems that make it difficult to swallow what is a sensitively written and formidably acted first play.

Penhaligon succeeds in projecting sweetness and doughty decency; and Nicholas



does even better with cold-hearted charisma. Here is a blandly ingratiating cad who thinks of his women victims as a series of "its", jumps from restaurant windows to avoid paying bills and snatches romantic bunches of roses from cemeteries, and can switch on an earnest charm at will. But Nicholas is better at giving us the grandiloquent but sleazy fantasist than suggesting that somewhere deep inside him is a rejected, embittered slunk-kid who develops an unwilling sympathy for Adelaide. Don't blame him or his director, Bob Tomson. His enough time, space or lines to ensure that the emotionally improbable becomes psychologically true.

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The return of the sophist

Roger Scruton on the danger of philosophies sold from the shelf

The ancient Athenians, who roved far and wide in the Mediterranean, saw the variety and absurdity of man's religions. After centuries of successful trading, the local gods and festivals could no longer satisfy their religious need. Their spiritual hunger was exacerbated by the stress of city life, by the constant threat of destruction, and by the grim vision of totalitarian Sparta: the vision of Greeks living without light or grace or humour, as though the gods had withdrawn from their world.

Into the crowded space of Periclean Athens came the wandering teachers, selling their wisdom to the bewildered populace. Any charlatan could make a killing, if enough people believed in him. Men like Gorgias and Protagoras, who wandered from house to house demanding fees for their instruction, preyed on the gullibility of a people made anxious by war. To the young Plato, who observed their antics with outrage, these "sophists" were a threat to the very soul of Athens. One alone among them seemed worthy of attention, and that one, the great Socrates whom Plato immortalised in his dialogues, was not a sophist, but a true philosopher.

The philosopher, in Plato's characterisation, awakens the spirit of inquiry. He helps his listeners to discover the truth, and it is they who bring forth, under his catalysing influence, the answer to life's riddles. The philosopher is the midwife, and his duty is to help us to be what we are — free and rational beings, who lack nothing that is required to understand our condition. The sophist, by contrast, misleads us with cunning fallacies, takes advantage of our weakness, and offers himself as the solution to problems of which he himself is the cause.

There are many signs of the sophist, but principal among them are these: mumbo-jumbo, condescension, and the taking of fees. The philosopher uses plain language, does not talk down to his audience, and never asks for payment. Such was Socrates, and in proposing him as an ideal, Plato defined the social status of the philosopher for centuries to come.

No one should doubt that sophistry is alive and well. Many of today's gurus are sophists: Derrida, Foucault, Heidegger, Lyotard, Rorty, to name but five. But those that are alive make their profits through the university system, giving lectures that pretend to be educational. The pre-Socratic practice of offering private guidance to the bewildered and curing their troubles by squeezing their purse (a practice which creates a powerful motive to leave bewilderment behind), has been the monopoly until recently of the psychoanalysts.

But we have entered the post-modern era — the era when beliefs and faiths are available off the shelf. More and more people are turning to philosophy, a kind of

A 'belief system' will be offered, dressed in suitable mumbo-jumbo

doubt, in order to persuade the client that her money has been well invested, the favoured 'belief system' will be dressed up in suitable mumbo-jumbo, and priced at a rate that will make it psychologically necessary for the client to persuade herself that she is being cured.

The sophists are back with a vengeance, and are all the more to be feared, in that they come disguised as philosophers. For, in this time of helpless relativism and subjectivity, philosophy alone has stood against the tide, reminding us that those crucial distinctions on which life depends — between true and false, good and evil, right and wrong — are objective and binding.

Philosophy has until now spoken with the accents of the academy and not with the voice of the fortune teller. When Plato founded the first academy, and placed philosophy at the heart of it, he did so in order to protect the precious store of knowledge from the assaults of charlatans, to create a kind of truth in the midst of falsehood, and to marginalise the sophists who preyed on human confusion. Little did he suspect, however, that he was providing the sophist with his ultimate disguise.

Sheer gloss

EVEN the most hardened, embossed Labour Party conference-goers will have seen nothing like the party to be held at this year's conference by the National Magazine Company. Terry Mansfield, the managing director, and the editors of *Cosmopolitan*, *Harpers & Queen*, *Good Housekeeping*, *She: Having a Baby*, *Country Living*, *House Beautiful*

and *Zest* have booked the Royal Pavilion in Brighton for Thursday, October 2, for their party. No jellied eels or warm bitter here.

Nat Mag's editors are on the whole a feisty bunch of women, more interested in modern sexual manners and wallpaper than the implications of Labour's first hundred days. Nonetheless, new Labour has cultivated them, sending its senior troops out to serve up homilies to the glossy readers. The most recent example was a grinning interview given by David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, to *Good Housekeeping*. The hand of Eileen Wise, Norma Major's former press officer, now head of corporate communications for Nat Mag, can be detected in the politicisation of *House Beautiful*.

The fight for the better hotel rooms is already on. This for know the power of a carefully timed tantrum, not least when faced with the Brighton speciality of rooms with floor paper, no mini-bar and polyester sheets.

Only one set of people ended up in prison as a result of the recent football match-fixing trial: the jurors. When they withdrew to

decide what to do with *Grobelaar and the boys*, the IJ had to go down to the former dungeons beneath Winchester Crown Court. It was the only room big enough and with powerful enough air-conditioning to accommodate the seven smokers on the jury alongside the non-smokers through their long deliberations.

Noble Deedes

TO the lengthy list of jobs performed by W.F. Deedes, 53, former Cabinet Minister, consigliere to the powerful and above all, reporter, must be added one more: enforcer. Deedes has been in Bosnia with Diana, Princess of Wales on her escape from Park Lane's Arab set. Aside from reporting on the Princess's visit, he has been sharing his knowledge of landmines.



"I can't stand the heat. Let's go into the kitchen!"

A Royal remarriage would highlight the conflict between Church teaching and contemporary culture

Flying without the celestial pilot

morality and the culture of the Western world. This is where the difficulty lies. To the Christians, marriage is indissoluble and adultery is a sin. To the world at large, marriage can be dissolved on a "no-fault basis" and adultery is a legitimate social option.

Most modern people now regard the Christian view of marriage as unrealistic and cruel. Good pastoral priests do, indeed, support and care for those whose marriages have broken down, or whose sexual lives are troubled. But they do not equivocate on the doctrine. Gilbert Burnet, who was the Bishop of Salisbury in the reigns of William and Mary and Queen Anne, provides a good example of what was the classical Anglican view. "Persons in wedlock, that suffer their affections to wander after other objects, lose the happiness of a married state; come to neglect their families; and grow careless of their children; besides that, a train of lying and falsehood follows every step they make in these vicious courses . . . not to mention those loathsome diseases that they do contract and communicate . . ." That is the old pragmatic Anglican view of adultery, a much more profound spiritual attitude can be found in St Augustine's Confessions, written more than 1,000 years earlier.

Whether one takes it at the pragmatic or the spiritual level, modern culture no longer accepts these Christian conclusions. About a third of all

marriages in the United Kingdom end in divorce. The law was changed by the last Government, removing all concept of fault. Marriage is now almost the only contract which can be broken at will. Yet marriage is not the only issue of sexual conduct in which the law has been radically changed. Since the 1960s, homosexual relationships have been legalised, and the age of homosexual consent will probably be lowered in this Parliament. The change in the abortion law was even more extreme. Fifty years

President of the United States, to the Royal Family. Yet the revolution is incomplete in two ways. Adultery may have been accepted in practice by many individual Christians, but it is not accepted in the doctrine of the Christian churches. The public attitude still combines permissive and censorious elements in an unpleasant

tire. He is the son of a self-made Egyptian billionaire, who has realised his own dream of owning Harrods, an odd dream to have. Such men often spoil their children and have very high expectations for them — a difficult combination for the child. Dodi has helped to make some good films — he must be a man of some sensitivity; his friends describe him as kindly and gentle; he is now over 40; he has had one marriage, which lasted less than a year, and has dated many film stars. They are notorious for being unhappy women, neurotic almost in proportion to their stardom. He is now dating Diana, the most celebrated woman on earth, and has to do so under the eye of the paparazzi. I feel sorry for her. I feel sorry for him. I do not know what Dodi Fayed wants in life, but I suppose he wishes to be happy. Divorced men in their early forties, with a lot of money and a string of glamorous relationships behind them, very seldom are happy — they more often feel lonely and unfulfilled.

For newspaper readers, adultery still seems to be a subject of extraordinary fascination. The *Sunday Mirror* is said to have sold out yesterday, with nine pages of rather blurred photographs of Diana, Princess of Wales, kissing or not kissing Mr Dodi Fayed. The pictures were taken at long distance by telephoto lenses, and they show it. Nevertheless, the *Sunday Mirror* paid £250,000 for them, and the price seems to have been justified in terms of sales.

None of us controls the culture in which we live. So far as that is concerned, we are all flying in a jumbo jet with a blind pilot to an unknown destination. Many of our beliefs and values are shaped, beyond our knowing, by the country, generation and class of our birth. Take as an example, the life of Dodi Fayed. He is not as unpopular as Camilla Parker Bowles used to be, but he risks her unpopularity. Like her, he has intruded on a dream. The ancient Greeks knew that flirting with goddesses leads to trouble.

He, too, is a victim, as well as a beneficiary, of this fashionable cul-

ture. Procuring an abortion was a felony, punishable by penal servitude for life; when the death of the mother resulted, that was murder, and punishable by death. Now the United Kingdom allows, in effect, abortion on demand. The liberal sexual revolution, part good, part bad, has been almost total.

This is a huge cultural experiment of a worldwide character. We read about it every day in newspapers.

Adultery in high circles has become the running story of this year's silly season, ranging from senior politicians in Britain and Germany, to the

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NORTH AND SOUTH

John Hume deserves honour, but not the Presidency

Like Julius Caesar resisting the clamour that he be crowned Emperor, Ireland's most popular politician is agonising about whether he should accept elevation by acclamation. John Hume, MP for Foyle, Northern Ireland MEP, leader of Ulster's Social Democratic and Labour Party, architect of the peace process and champion of Londonderry is weighing whether he should stand for the Presidency of Ireland. Should he decide to contest the election it would be no contest.

The moral stature he is accorded in the Republic, for the effort he has devoted to peace, dwarfs most potential rivals. Ireland's main parties would be unlikely to stand in his way and he would enjoy the blessing of the White House. The office, symbolic rather than executive, would provide a fitting autumnal role for an elder statesman. Mr Hume, however, would be wrong to assume that what is his for the taking should be grasped. His election as President of Ireland would be a significant prize but would imperil a greater — the peace he has striven so hard to secure.

The election of Mr Hume, a United Kingdom citizen, as the Head of State of the Irish Republic would do nothing to calm Unionist fears about the direction of the peace process. Mr Hume's candidacy will be seen by Unionists as another attempt to blur the border and establish in the world's eyes that the people of Northern Ireland are part of the Republic and not, as most of its citizens are glad to affirm, part of the United Kingdom. His election would be seen as a physical expression of the territorial claim Dublin makes to Northern Ireland in its constitution, a claim Unionists understandably consider anachronistic irredentism.

For Mr Hume even to consider standing betrays a mind-set that sees Ulster and the Republic as a seamless state, certainly in an ideal future if not in the present imperfect. Mr Hume, and his party, have every right to argue that case within the UK, but to do so

from the presidential seat in Phoenix Park would be seen by Unionists as an aggrandising gesture. For a politician who has done so much in Londonderry to try to meet Unionist concerns it would be a heavy-booted and backwards step.

Mr Hume's elevation would allow a younger leadership to take command of the SDLP and, potentially, move closer to liberal Unionism. If that were to happen, then Ulster's politics would gain. But it is still unlikely. Given the hold Mr Hume has had over his party for so long, while so often in Washington or Strasbourg, it is hard to see his influence significantly waning were he to be sitting in state in Dublin. There is another, practical, consideration. A by-election in Mr Hume's constituency of Foyle would give Sinn Féin another opportunity to grandstand and, if the republicans won, the party would overtake the SDLP in the number of MPs it boasted. Mr Hume should not risk yielding his party's position as the leading voice of northern nationalism for the sake of southern comforts.

Choosing a worthy successor to Mary Robinson will be difficult. It is easy to see why John Hume, her worthy equal in easy humanity and liberal spirit, should seem appropriate. Mrs Robinson was, however, uniquely qualified as President to reassure Unionists that Dublin was interested in co-operation with Ulster, not eventual condominium. Married to a Protestant and an opponent of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, on impeccably democratic grounds, she was the perfect figurehead for a Republic which wanted to put assertive republicanism behind it. Mrs Robinson embodied a new Ireland which wanted to become at ease with itself, within its own borders. Modern Ireland, and moderates everywhere, have good reason to respect John Hume but compelling reasons to look elsewhere among the Republic's rising generation, for a new President.

FLOWERS OF EVIL

Tough action is needed to curb Taliban's deadly export

All over the killing hills of Afghanistan, where thousands have died in 18 years of civil war and thousands more have been maimed by millions of buried landmines, a deadly harvest is now being gathered. Poppies, deceptively beautiful flowers of evil, are being gathered to fuel Afghanistan's booming opium trade and, incidentally, to fund the war-chest of the Taliban, the country's Islamic rulers. Yet if promises to the United Nations are to be believed, the poppy harvest may soon dwindle. The Taliban leadership is preparing an edict to declare that opium cultivation is a violation of Islamic law, and will co-operate with UN officials in reducing the acreage under cultivation.

Such an assurance would be good news indeed. Drugs are being smuggled into Europe from Afghanistan in huge quantities. The temptation for Afghans to reap the rich harvest is almost irresistible. Their country has been laid waste, their villages and fields ruined, their families left on the brink of starvation. As the state has collapsed, so too has the rule of law. Warlords have plundered the countryside to buy arms; farmers, burdened with new taxes, are desperate for cash; and middlemen in Pakistan and the former Soviet Union are all too eager to encourage the lucrative trade in raw opium.

Stopping the flow of drugs will be difficult and expensive. The UN, working with drug officials from Europe and America, the principal opium markets, has a crop substitution programme that offers cash incentives to farmers replacing drug plants

with legitimate crops. Officials know that they must move carefully: blanket prohibitions enforced by crop burning or spraying could simply raise the opium price and encourage more furtive production in inaccessible regions. And powerful interests, including criminal gangs, tribal chieftains and weapons smugglers, would combine to defeat any production ban were their source of cash suddenly to dry up.

Religion, however, holds powerful sway. In a country where the name of Islam has been invoked to regulate every aspect of daily life, a clerical decree is more powerful than any secular command. Drug cultivation and abuse is contrary to the precepts of Islam. Why then has there been only silence from Afghanistan's current rulers? The answer is obvious: the puritan zealots preach ideals but practise hypocrisy. They depend on the drugs trade for weapons, money and authority. Their eyes may be inflamed by the sight of emancipated women; but they are blind to the drugs that kill humans in their thousands overseas.

For this reason, UN claims that it has secured an assurance of official help in reducing poppy cultivation must be treated sceptically. The Americans, who appear more interested in the Taliban's strategic damage to Iran than in opposing clerical excesses, have reacted with unseemly nonchalance to the opium trade. The pressure on the Taliban to curb the drug exports must be as brutal and multifaceted as it is on the corrupt authorities in Latin America. Only then will the deadly flowers wilt on Afghanistan's hills.

MENDING THE SKY

Schemes to seal the ozone hole are attractive but fatuous

Solving the ozone problem might seem to be simply a matter of redistribution. There is too little of it high in the stratosphere and too much lower down in the troposphere. Up high, it has been eroded by chlorofluorocarbons, the chemicals used in refrigerators, the bane of our planet. At the moment, the scale of the problem is vast and it is a long way up. A total of 3.6 million tons of chlorine would need to be transformed, at a height far above that of normal flight paths. More important are the uncertainties attending any massive exercise in atmospheric chemistry. Having stumbled into the problem through ignorance of the way in which the atmosphere works, it would be fatuous and all too easy to create new problems while trying to solve the old.

In any case, a solution to the ozone problem is already in place. True, the Montreal Protocol and its successors which began the process of eliminating chlorofluorocarbons lack the glamour of an Apollo-style ozone repair campaign, but they have already begun to have measurable effects. Last year, for the first time, scientists measured a decline in the quantities of the ozone-eating chemicals in the lower atmosphere. Within a few years, this should be repeated in the stratosphere, and then normal stratospheric processes can begin the slow job of repairing the ozone shield. It may take until the middle of the next century to complete a period which mankind could usefully spend ruing the ignorance of atmospheric chemistry that led to the ozone hole in the first place.

Studies by a retired professor sponsored by Mr Heineken suggest that these methods might work, but would cost about two billion dollars. Half a billion dollars is

needed for field trials to establish feasibility. Mr Heineken's flights of fancy join a series of hair-brained schemes for global engineering, put forward over the past decade. A common feature is the aim of converting the active chlorine atoms which destroy ozone into chlorine ions, which do not. But the scale of the problem is vast and it is a long way up. A total of 3.6 million tons of chlorine would need to be transformed, at a height far above that of normal flight paths. More important are the uncertainties attending any massive exercise in atmospheric chemistry.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Gap-year students and tuition fees

From Mr John T. Hall

Sir, The possible imposition of tuition fees on 1998 deferred-entry students (reports and leading article, August 7; report, August 8) would interfere with something more fundamental than statute law: it would override our private law rights and do so retrospectively.

Any requirement by government to pay fees which formed no part of the student's contract with the university when the offer of a deferred place was accepted through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service would be unfair, inequitable and incompatible with other legislation dealing with consumer rights. I hope that the Government will have the good sense to act fairly and swiftly to dispel the growing alarm.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HALL
(Head, Education Law Department),
Eversheds (solicitors),
Senate House,
88 Queen Victoria Street, EC4.
August 7.

From the Principal of the Sixth College, Farnborough

Sir, The inevitability of students and parents contributing to university tuition fees is, I think, generally regretted but acknowledged. However, the Government must not permit confusion and lack of clarity to further complicate the 1997 post-A-level scramble for higher education places: it is already a stressful enough time for all concerned.

Whether or not a firm decision is taken to introduce tuition charges for the A-level class of 1998, may I suggest that an assurance be given immediately to all students who matriculate for university entrance by August 1997 that tuition fees will be remitted, provided that they begin their degree programme by October 1998?

This would reduce the likelihood of students leaping into inappropriate courses to beat a possibly imaginary deadline, and it would permit many to benefit without financial penalty from the generally invaluable experience of the gap year they have been planning for 1997-98.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN J. GUY.
Principal,
The Sixth Form College,
Prospect Avenue,
Farnborough, Hampshire.
August 7.

From Miss Elizabeth Hastings

Sir, I am a second-year undergraduate at the University of Birmingham. When I graduate I wish to study for a PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate of Education) and become a teacher. It is people like me who will be the next generation of teachers, doctors and nurses, etc.

Why should we have to pay for studying for three years (longer in the case of medical students) in order to maintain the social fabric of the country? Will we not be more than putting back into society, for at least 40 years, what we will take out of it for about three? We shall not be exempt from income tax so must we pay twice for the "privilege" of educating our children and working 80-hour weeks — some of us to save people's lives?

We are privileged to be able to study in higher education, but, despite popular belief, we work extremely hard to get there, extremely hard whilst we are there, and extremely hard when we leave to secure a job.

Wishing to further our career prospects in today's capitalist society should not be a punishable offence.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH HASTINGS,
5 Bruce Avenue,
Brutton, Somerset.
August 7.

Murder of pastor

From the General Secretary of the British Evangelical Council

Sir, Thank you for your report (August 7) of the tragic murder in Hungary of Pastor Michael Pollard while he and his wife were returning from an aid mission to Romania. The story had a double impact.

Many were enabled to pray for the family and the church at Shipley, West Yorkshire, in their devastating loss — surely our first response to such news. Secondly, it gave us a glimpse of genuine evangelical Christianity instead of the extrovert worship styles so beloved by the media.

Thirty years of tireless concern for spreading the Word and helping others tragically culminated in the ultimate sacrifice. That reminded me of someone else — a companion which I believe Michael Pollard would not have found unwelcome.

Yours gratefully,
ALAN F. GIBSON,
General Secretary,
British Evangelical Council,
Eversheds House, Alma Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
beccofice@aol.com
August 8.

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The link between public school and Army promotion

From Mr Daniel Oxberry

Sir, To wish the Army to be and to act like society as a whole might appear a worthy aim (letters, August 7). However, we require our soldiers to do intolerable things in appalling conditions which are simply unacceptable to the vast majority. Their willingness to do so makes them different, separate from the rest of us and the better army for.

Perhaps Major Eric Joyce, who calls in question the Army's social structures (report, August 4), would like to accompany me to my regimental reunion next autumn. I shall be happy to introduce him there to my former company sergeant-major, now a retired lieutenant-colonel, my former company clerk whom I knew as a corporal and is now a prosperous retired major, and his friend who was a private in the orderly room, now a retired captain. I shall shortly be visiting one of my oldest friends who did not attend public school, began as a private and is now still serving as a full colonel.

Thirty-three years ago, when I joined my splendid county regiment, it did not matter where you had been to school, who your father was or how much money you had. What mattered was that you accepted and respected the norms and values of that excellent organisation, which had evolved over the previous 500 years and bore little resemblance to any one part of civilian society, past or present. That was its charm, and it remains so.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL OXBERRY,
3 Foxmore Street, SW1.
August 7.

From Mr Charles Ross

Sir, Major-General P. M. Davies (letter, August 7) seeks to contradict

Major Eric Joyce's criticism of "blatant social selection in the Army" by describing the rigorous selection procedures he experienced throughout his long career from his first Unit Selection Board.

He underestimates one point: had he not been to Charterhouse or a similar public school he would have had a minimal chance of passing that first Unit Selection Board.

Major Joyce is completely correct. His only error is to think the class structure and its barriers are limited to the Army — it is endemic in all walks of life, not least among the financial institutions.

The education at public schools is usually excellent; but the "us and them" that it sustains is a weakness which limits our capacity to compete and succeed in an ever-more egalitarian world.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES ROSS
(National Service Lieutenant, RA,
1954-56).
Mulberry House,
8 Mount Road,
Lansdown, Bath.
August 7.

From Warrant Officer Terry Hancill (retired)

Sir, Your report highlights the anachronistic and archaic two-class system which has operated in the Army for generations. But the assertion by "a former member of the Army Board" that "officers are different from soldiers" no longer applies. There is often discussion and opinion-seeking by both parties.

Unfortunately the officer has little experience of life on the "shop floor", whereas senior police officers, for example, have spent some invaluable time gaining experience on the beat before entering the "fast-track" promotion system.

Yours truly,

TERRY HANCILL
(Chief Clerk, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, TA, 1980-92),
6 Hamilton Drive,
Ormskirk, Lancashire.

From Mrs Caroline Yulli

Sir, In 1998 my grandfather, Air Vice-Marshal Sir George Laing, one of 13 children of an Aberdeenshire farmer, won a scholarship to Petes School, but his family could not afford the daily return fare.

In 1904, on completion of his state education, he joined the Gordon Highlanders and was quickly promoted to sergeant. He applied for further promotion four times, each time a new excuse being made to turn down the application.

Eventually, in 1912, he joined the Royal Flying Corps, which appears to have been more open-minded in its promotion policy.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE YULLI
16 Cotham Road South, Bristol.
pr82@digipiper.com
August 5.

Leading from the top

From Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Earlam

Sir, I think it is entirely appropriate that we should be debating at this time the place where our senior Army officers are educated. After all we do now have the first public school Prime Minister since 1964.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
DAVID EARLAM,
Sylvan House,
Worthgate Place, Canterbury, Kent.
August 8.

Bards of the byrger'

From Ms Jan Morris

Sir, Simon Jenkins's article about Wales, "The bards of the byrger" (August 6), has, of course, its fair share of errors — what London article about Wales hasn't? — but its real fault is that it is out of date.

By concentrating upon old English preoccupations like Welsh north-south differences, language subsidies and the laughable side of the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, it fails to recognise that the most progressive elements in Wales, whether Welsh-speaking or not, are trying to reinvent their country, to make of it a truly bilingual, modern, confident and happy nation as eager for the European future as it is of the proud of the Celtic past.

The creation of a Welsh assembly will be a vital step in that process and is surely as desirable for the United Kingdom, and for Europe as a whole, as it is for Wales itself.

Yours faithfully,
JAN MORRIS,
Trefan Moris,
Llanystudwy, Gwynedd.
August 6.

From Sir Wyn Roberts

Sir, When a columnist bearing the noble name of Jenkins (Simon) writes so disparagingly about the National Eisteddfod of Wales, I despair of the doyens of our metropolitan newspaper culture.

Yours faithfully,
GWYNNE AP GWILYMM,
The Rectory,
Mallwyd, Powys.

There is nothing new in this kind of outrageous treatment of things Welsh. As another distinguished columnist, Godfrey Winn, once said to me when asked by Television Wales and the West to cover the Eisteddfod: "It should be interesting: I've never done an ice show before."

Yours sincerely,
WYN ROBERTS
(Minister, Welsh Office, 1979-94).
Tan-y-Gwalia,
Rowen, Conwy, Gwynedd.
August 6.

From the Reverend Gwynne ap Gwilym

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR JURGEN KUCZINSKI

Professor Jürgen Kuczinski, German Communist historian, died on August 9 aged 92.

He was born on September 19, 1904.

Jürgen Kuczinski was a rounded and witty figure who stood out among East Germany's pallid Communist intelligentsia. Part of the grand-bourgeois Jewish social and academic world which was largely destroyed by the post-1933 emigration and the Holocaust, he was a Marxist economic historian and popular essayist who rebelled against the intellectual constraints and taboos of the system he embraced.

He died as he had lived, believing that the eventual triumph of socialism was unavoidable, although he admitted with characteristic nonchalance after the downfall of the Soviet Union that "the timetable appears to have altered somewhat". It was a standing joke enjoyed by himself, that he had spent his whole life predicting the imminent crisis of capitalism.

Kuczinski never offered resistance to the East German where he lived from 1933, choosing instead to walk a tightrope between freedom of expression — for which he lobbied the governments of Walter Ulbricht and Erich Honecker without much success — and religious adherence to Marxism-Leninism. He would joke that he had "as many Party disciplinary procedures behind him as Party gongs", but the Communist Party was his polar star and he remained a leading member of the reformed Party of Democratic Socialism, the successor to East Germany's ruling Socialist Unity Party.

The child of cosmopolitan Communist parents, his father René Kuczinski taught statistics for a time at the London School of Economics, he graduated precociously from the universities of Heidelberg and Erlangen and gained his doctorate at the age of 21, publishing his first book, *Back to Marx*, a year later. After two years research at the Brookings Institute in Washington DC he worked for the American Federation of Labor and on Wall Street, where he learnt to play the stock-market with some acumen. It was not the last time that he was to exploit his affinity with the capitalist world to aid the Communist cause.

He returned to Germany to edit the *Rote Fahne*, the newspaper of the Communist Party of Germany (KPD), but



emigrated to London in 1936, fleeing the National Socialists. By this time, he had published 13 books on economic history.

His 40-volume *History of the Working Classes in Germany*

was finally completed in the mid-1980s. His academic output also included sociological studies of German and French literature, a reappraisal of Max Weber and the more accessible *Everyday History of the German People*, which ran to a mere five volumes.

His prodigious output was envied and mocked by his academic peers. "Most people read a thousand books and then write one," remarked a friend: "JK, does it the other way round?"

A leading figure in the Communist-Jewish milieu of north London during the emigration from Germany, he set up a branch of the Free German Youth in Hampstead. He earned his living by managing the financial affairs of a wealthy friend in return for a share of the profits, which he

also used to help fund the KPD in exile. Making his way into elevated left-wing circles, he became a friend of Aneurin Bevan, Cecil Day-Lewis and Lillian Bowes-Lyon, the Queen Mother's cousin.

It was during this time that he produced an unusual piece of covert Communist propaganda in the form of a book entitled *Hitler and the British Empire* — an attempt to prod Britain into declaring war on Germany. Written under the pseudonym James Turner, it was a near-flawless imitation of British Establishment style and logic. He used the same pseudonym to pursue Marxist arguments in the columns of *Labour Weekly*. Never at a loss for influential friends, he was rescued from internment in Devon apparently by high-level American intervention. He dined frequently in Cambridge colleges, where he cultivated Maynard Keynes and Joan Robinson.

His sister, Ruth Werner, was also present in Britain at that time, acting as an agent for Soviet military intelligence under the codename Sonya. It was Kuczinski — probably acting on the orders of the Soviets, although he always denied it — who introduced her to the atomic scientist Klaus Fuchs. Werner became the courier for Fuchs and it was via her that the blueprint of the atom bomb developed at Harwell was passed to Moscow.

In 1944, Kuczinski was given a post in the American Strategic Bombing Survey under Kenneth Galbraith. Later, he admitted that he had passed information gleaned through his contacts with American intelligence to the Soviets.

By 1945, when he returned to the family home in the American zone of Berlin, Washington had become aware of his real loyalties and took symbolic revenge by cutting off his telephone. In 1950, Walter Ulbricht, the first East German leader, made him

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THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY AUGUST 11 1997

NEWS

Muddle over U-turn on the gap trap

The future of thousands of university applicants was thrown into confusion last night after a government U-turn over course fees for "gap year" students.

Ministers were accused of creating policy on the hoof by offering to exempt from tuition fees those who have already arranged to work for charity as part of their year off before taking up university places next year — when the charges are to be imposed ...

Page 1

Sporting British settle for second best

British sportsmen yet again demonstrated the art of coming second yesterday as Damon Hill limped home after leading the Hungarian Grand Prix until the last lap, the men's 4x400 team were took silver in Athens, and England's cricketers crumbled to defeat in the Ashes ...

Pages 24, 25, 31

Cake display

Hundreds of people jostled outside Bedford Goodman in New York's Fifth Avenue as the store put on a display of Windsor memorabilia that included a slice of their wedding cake ...

Page 1

Princess subdued

As photographs of her embrace with a playboy were published in Britain, a subdued Diana, Princess of Wales, visited Bosnian landmine victims ...

Page 1

Boating tragedy

A 17-year-old girl was killed on an Oxfordshire lake when a jetski she was riding with her uncle crashed into a boat ...

Page 3

Verdict delayed

The two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia face an agonising wait for the verdict after judges abruptly closed the case and retired to consider the evidence ...

Page 4

House move

Making vendors rather than buyers responsible for the survey and introducing property "logbooks" would make buying a home as simple as buying a car ...

Page 6

Life expectancy

People who live in big cities, especially in the North, are far more likely to die younger than others and the gap has widened in the past decade, according to a report ...

Page 6

Afghan drug deal

UN drug control officials are on the verge of an agreement with the radical Islamic Taliban movement aimed at the elimination of opium cultivation in Afghanistan ...

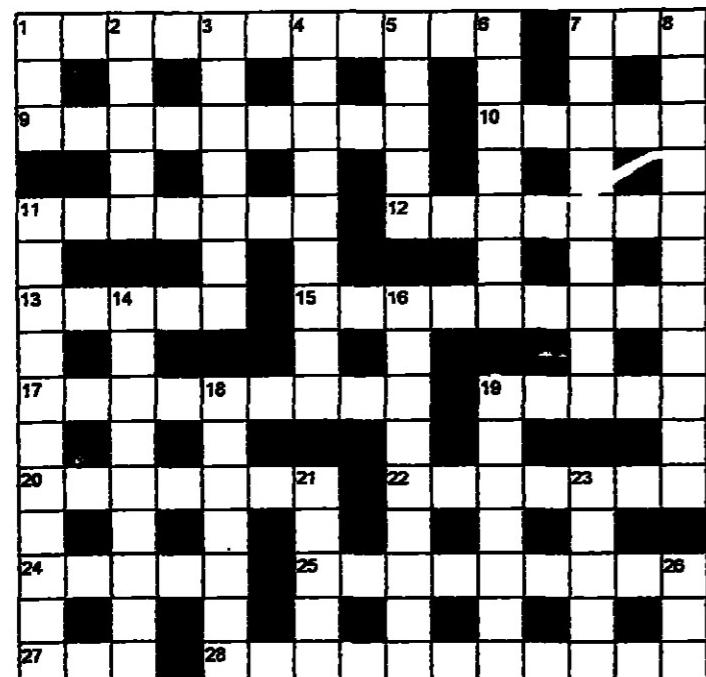
Page 13

Drake gets his due after 400 years

More than 400 years after his death, Dutch and American history books are to be rewritten to acknowledge Sir Francis Drake as the discoverer of Cape Horn, the southernmost point of South America in 1578. US and Dutch historians have long promoted the claim of Willem Schouten, a Dutch navigator, who did not land on the cape until 1616 ...

Page 5

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,555



ACROSS

- Jack, for one — an eccentric musician? (7).
- Female creature runs away from man of action (3).
- Sudden drop of current — flaw later rectified (9).
- Muslim lawman in plain clothes (5).
- Branch out, rejecting assistance in class (7).
- Plant developing encouragingly, at first, in a soft (7).
- Annoys informers (5).
- Like Keats's sweater melodies, we hear? On the contrary (9).
- It's obligatory for one holding a benefit (9).
- Young and inexperienced, he's converted by priest (5).
- Party held during trip in a long-boat (7).
- Bishops, say, carrying cross for islander (7).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,554 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES SUMMER OF SPORT

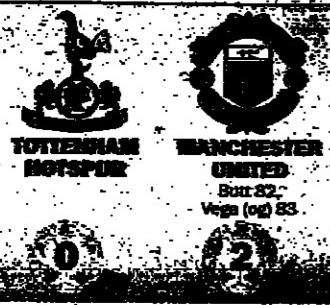
ASHES TO ASHESEngland take fast track to defeat at Trent Bridge
PAGE 31**CAR TROUBLE**Hill loses out on wheel of fortune
PAGE 25**SILVER SERVICE**Britain's men still playing second fiddle
PAGE 24**GONE WITH THE WIND**Chase is on for line honours in Fastnet Race
PAGE 37PLUS
County reports
PAGES 32-33

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY AUGUST 11 1997

CHAMPIONS BACK IN THE OLD ROUTINE AT TOTTENHAM

Last laugh for unmoved United

By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE new FA Carling Premiership season exploded into life in all its glorious technicolour yesterday when Teddy Sheringham, one of its most celebrated players, was dragged through the emotional wringer on his highly-charged return to his old stamping ground, White Hart Lane, with his new club, Manchester United.

The Tottenham Hotspur fans baited him all afternoon. They taunted him by singing that he was a waste of money and they went into delirious celebrations when he whacked a penalty against a post right in front of them. Football has no fury like the supporter scorned, but, just when it seemed that Spurs had broken their erstwhile hero, he had the last laugh.

Playing his first competitive game for his new team since his move to Old Trafford this summer, Sheringham had driven his 59th-minute penalty against the foot of Ian Walker's right-hand post, after Edinburgh had handled in the area, and then hoisted the rebound over the bar. Yet the England striker, who cost Manchester United £3.75 million, dragged himself back from the brink of utter humiliation by inadvertently creating United's crucial first goal for Nicky Butt nine minutes from the end of a fraught second half and celebrating it as though he had just completed a hat-trick.

Less than a minute later, Vega poled Beckham's deep cross low into his own goal and Tottenham's fate was sealed.

"Teddy did his best for Tottenham," Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said afterwards. "When he got the penalty, I turned to Brian Kidd and said 'I hope he does not miss this one. Next week would be okay but not this one'."

"When you appoint a penalty taker, it is important you know he has the temperament to be able to carry on if he misses and he showed that character today. You have got to expect the sort of stick he got. It was a bit over the top, but not quite in the same league as the reception Paul Ince got when he went back to West Ham."

Sheringham's eventual prompting of the United victory, though, was confirmation not only of his own redemption but of the wisdom of his insistence on a transfer. On yesterday's performance, Spurs are not as bad as their fans may have feared, but they are still far from potential champions.

United had taken the whole of the first half to find their stride, but, once they hit it, they battered Spurs into submission yesterday by ruthlessly disposing of a Tottenham team

that lacked penetration in attack and creativity in midfield.

Tottenham managed to hold their own for the first 45 minutes and had the best player on the pitch in Sol Campbell, but, after the interval and particularly when Roy Keane, United's new captain, started to stride forward more regularly and David Beckham had replaced Paul Scholes on the right, they were outclassed.

The home team had started the match playing with more confidence and cohesion than most of

their own supporters had dared hope for. Ginola was the soul of composure and flair from the start and, after the Frenchman had provided the United defence with its first test with a long ball towards Ferdinand that Phil Neville did well to intercept, Nielsen lofted another ball towards the England centre forward. This time, it took a desperate last-ditch interception by Johnson to put Ferdinand off.

At the back, Campbell was imperious, stifling every United initiative, mopping up cleanly and calmly. Even his distribution, something that the England manager, Glenn Hoddle, has said he must work on, was flawless.

With Pallister and Johnson unyielding at the other end, too, first-half opportunities were limited to the occasional half-chance. Walker smothered a snap shot from Sheringham low down at his near post and Vega nodded Ginola's corner high over the bar from an unmarked position ten yards out.

In the second half, though, Spurs' resistance crumbled. Giggs should have scored when Phil Neville pulled a low cross back to him 15 yards out, but he lifted his head and his shot flew over. Then Giggs laid a pass into the path of Scholes and, when his mis-hit shot scuttled across the Spurs' area, Sheringham ran on to it but lifted it high over the bar.

By now, Campbell was keeping United at bay almost by himself, but even he was powerless when Edinburgh, who had just tackled Cruyff, scooped the ball further away from trouble with his hand.

The rapture of the Spurs supporters was something to behold when Sheringham missed, but, in fact, it was just the beginning of the end.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2) I Walker — S Nielsen, D Howard, S Cironen (sub: A Sinton, 73min), D Ginola — I. Ferdinand, S Iversen

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2) P Schmeichel — D Ince, R Johnson, G Pallister, P Neville — P Scholes (sub: D Venables, 69), N Butt, P Keane, R Giggs — J. Sheringham, J Cruyff

Referee: G Price

Owen arrives, page 26

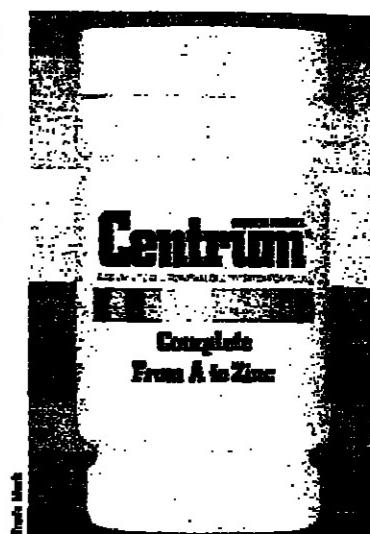
Wilson's faith, page 27

Lynne Truss, page 29



BUTT celebrates the goal that set Manchester United on the way to victory in their first match of the season, at White Hart Lane yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

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ATHLETICS: RELAY SQUADS ADD TO MEDAL TALLY ON THE FINAL DAY OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Britain combine to claim quick silver

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATHENS

IN THE 44th and final event of the world championships here yesterday, Great Britain failed narrowly to win their first gold medal as the men's 4 x 400 metres team lost out in a close finish to the United States. The squad returns home with five silver medals and the bronze that was taken, unexpectedly, by the 4 x 100 metres relay team last night.

Never, in the history of world championships and Olympic games, had the United States lost both men's relays and this was as close as they came. They had failed to reach the final in the shorter relay and looked vulnerable in the longer one as Britain enjoyed the advantage of fielding the same quartet that had finished runners-up in the Atlantic Games last year.

Although Antonio Pettigrew, who had beaten Roger Black to the 1991 world title, was on the second leg, the three other team members were largely inexperienced: Jerome Young, on the opening

leg, is only 20, as is Tyree Washington, who had the task on the anchor leg of holding off Mark Richardson and a valiant, indeed surprising, challenge from Jamaica.

Even without Michael Johnson, who had won the individual 400 metres title for the third world championships in succession, and Butch Reynolds, the world record-holder, Britain knew not to take victory for granted. Washington had finished third in the individual race. Young fifth and Pettigrew seventh.

The only defeat that the United States had suffered in eight world and Olympic finals since 1984 was at the 1991 world championships in Tokyo. On that occasion, it was Kriss Akabusi, on the last leg, who delivered victory for Britain in an European record time of 2min 57.53sec. When Black, Richardson, Iwan Thomas and Jamie Baulch finished second in Atlanta, they improved the European record by almost a second, recording 2min 56.50sec. Last night, they were a mere 0.15sec slower, but would have needed yet another European record to take the gold.

Thomas took the first leg and came home trailing Young slightly. Black, as the athletes broke lanes, found himself in third place, separated from the United States by Jamaica. Pettigrew held the lead and, at the second change-over, Baulch was back in third.

Baulch, a former Wales schools international trampolinist, uncoupled like a spring over the first 200 metres, passing McFarlane, for Jamaica, and Chris Jones, for the Americans. Baulch held his position around the top bend, but had given too much too early and conceded the lead to the American before the final changeover.

Richardson, who had been Britain's highest finisher in the individual event, setting a personal best to finish fourth, chose to sit behind Washington until they came off the final bend. Washington, competing at his first senior international championship, had taken the bronze medal just ahead of Richardson in the individual race and the scene was set for a thrilling last 80 metres. The Briton moved out into lane two and, just briefly, looked as though he may have the better of his opponent. Washington, though, had judged his run well and crossed the line in 2min 56.47sec. Britain followed in 2min 56.65sec and Jamaica, menacing to the last, followed in 2min 56.75sec.

Ironically, it was Britain who benefited from the absence of the United States in the final of the 4 x 100 metres. In Gothenburg at the last world championships and in the Atlanta Olympics, Radcliffe finished fourth here on Saturday. The Briton's lack of finishing pace was exposed

metres champions. Yesterday, he joined him as a senior world champion. Aged 21, Komen from Kenya, won the 5,000 metres Gebrselassie having triumphed for Ethiopia in the 10,000 metres on Wednesday.

In the summer of 1996, Komen took over from Noureddine Morelli as the most prolific attack of middle-distance world records and, towards the end of the season, sliced an extraordinary 4.41sec off the Algerian's mark over 3,000 metres. However, he had still to appear in a senior international championship, having failed to make the Kenya team for the 1995 world championships or the 1996 Olympic Games.

Bubka, from Ukraine, has set 35 world records indoors and outdoors, but he came to Athens with his name nowhere to be seen among the world leaders for his event this year. When he cleared 5.70 metres in the qualifying round, it was his best height of the summer. By the time he took his familiar place on the podium, he had cleared 6.01 metres to set a championship record and defeat Maksim Tarasov, from Russia, the former Olympic champion. Nick Buckfield, in finishing fifth, with 5.70 metres, achieved the best performance by a British pole-vaulter in the history of these championships.

In 1994, Daniel Komen succeeded Haile Gebrselassie as world junior 5,000 and 10,000

Bubka maintains his pole position

FROM DAVID POWELL

SERGEY BUBKA produced the most stunning performance of his long and distinguished pole-vaulting career yesterday when he maintained his position as the only athlete to win at every world championships since they were inaugurated in 1983. Bubka's sixth title was achieved against all the odds and a background of precious little form this season.

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Greeks lack the staying power

ROB HUGHES

Louis, a water-carrier by trade, who won the marathon when the Olympic Games were reborn in Athens and after whom the new Olympic stadium is named?

The population, alas, did a very good job in ignoring both their history and their future. It would seem likely that the efforts of some to bring the Olympic Games back to their breeding ground in 2004 will fail because of the apathy of the modern generation. Athenians who had the means to pay apparently did not have the will to stay; they were on holiday, on the beaches and not filling the 52,000 seats in the main arena. Yet it cost not a drachma to watch the marathon on its classical route. The Panathinaiko Stadium, a marvellously evocative marble arena, shaped like a horse-shoe and with imposing colonnade gates, was virtually empty on Saturday, dotted with only a couple of hundred people yesterday. Why? Explanations are plenty, including one that the Mayor of Athens, reacting to the explosion of a bomb in the Stockholm Olympic stadium, ordered those

who had tickets to be barred from this place. So, acquiring the key to the far-off sound of violence, misreading the resolve of the International Olympic Committee members who must vote on September 5 for the 2004 Games, the Greeks destroyed the coronation of runners who should mean most to their heritage?

Had the efforts been more organised, they would have seen on Saturday quite astounding insolence from the Japanese women, who, in temperatures reaching towards 90F and humidity rising towards 50 per cent, broke the very resistance of this momentous course. Hiromi Suzuki, pouring on the pace where the Marathon-in-Athenians run was at its steepest—a long searching incline from 15 to 30 kilometres—broke the record for a woman here, finishing in 2hr 29.45min. Takako Tobise and Nobuka Fujimura also finished in the top ten and so Japan easily took the team award. Great Britain? Four British women entered and the four—Angharad Mair, Sally Goldsmith, Danielle Sanderson and Carolyn Hunter-Rowe—all finished, between 23rd and 47th place, no dismisse.

In similar elements yesterday, the Spaniards, salaried runners paid by their government, systematically retained the world championship crown of laurels. At first, it was the Africans, eager but unwise in their pace, who



Bubka makes a successful clearance on the way to the pole vault gold medal

third in 38.14sec. Darren Braithwaite, Darren Campbell and Doug Walker combined to leave Julian Golding in fourth place at the last changeover. Golding edged past the Cuban to secure, by 0.01sec, bronze medals.

Paula Radcliffe's consistency over 5,000 metres is impressive, but she has yet to be rewarded with a medal. Fifth in Gothenburg at the last world championships and in the Atlanta Olympics, Radcliffe led approaching the bell, but was passed by Gabriela Szabo, from Romania, Roberta Brunet, from Italy, and Fernanda Ribeiro,

after she had tried, unsuccessfully, from 1,250 metres out, to burn off her opponents.

One cannot help but think that Radcliffe would be better moving up to 10,000 metres. She was second in the world cross country championships in March on a 6,600-metre undulating course and, over 25 laps, would be less vulnerable than a mass charge of the kind that engulfed her here. Radcliffe led approaching the bell, but was passed by

Bob Weir, 36, can be satisfied with his eighth place for Britain in the discus. In an event won by Lars Riedel, from Germany, Weir improved on his recent world championship and Olympic performances.

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Suffers rare
in California

...for only the second
time in the history of the
NASCAR Winston Cup Series.
The race was won by the
team of Bill Elliott and Dale
Earnhardt, who had been
racing in the race since 1988.

clinches title

...and reach finals

...for Hawes

...winning the
championship at last

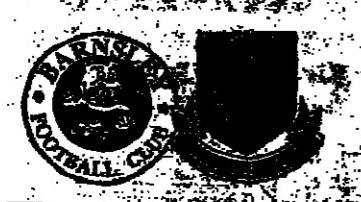
...and the title in the

final race

...for the team

Manager relieved after opening-day defeat dims spotlight on Barnsley

Wilson keeps faith with homespun ideals



BARNESLEY 1
WEST HAM UNITED 2
By Mark Hedges

THE sandwiches were already turning brittle as Wilson tried to eat in the overheat stadium against Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager took two steps into the pitch head and made a silent exclamation. "Come on, let's do it now."

The sun shone brightly and he had to squint but Asprilla didn't swear crossed his fingers. He looked a man at ease, dressed in an unforgiving suit and tie. "I am now glad this game is out of the way and we can get back to all the hype. However, we can settle down again now," he said.

Defeat had not made him despondent. He had the same look of relief as the groom enlivens a crafty cigarette after the nervous formality of the wedding ceremony. The cheerful assurance of last season has patiently remained despite his early departure. "We've got to get back to the Premier. The only time stuff didn't happen today," he said.

Locally, there had been talk of a possible flying start to the season with three of the first four games at home and the one away match at Crystal Palace, a team like Barnsley, just promoted.

Since Barnsley secured promotion to the FA Carling Premiership, Wilson has spent more time in front of cameras and microphones than with his players. Or perhaps it just seems that way. He has told the same jokes, relayed the same anecdotes and the magnitude of his team's first game had been reinforced again.

A game of football is a simple affair, as ephemeral as a British summer, but the build-up to Barnsley's season — and specifically this match at Oakwell on Saturday — had been toruously overplayed.

The rhythm of expectation had been played repeatedly on a boom-bang, slack drum-and-urh-were-left-with-a-headache-burn-from-underdog-overload.

Wilson, commendably, opened the season with approximately the same team that clinched promotion. Only Jinkes and Barnard



Redfearn, second from left, turns away after igniting the celebrations at Oakwell for the first Barnsley goal in the top division. Photograph: Marc Aspland

supplemented a winning combination, so signings from Macedonia, Slovenia and Germany were left to pass around the sun-cream on the substitutes' bench.

Obviously, when so much has been invested in a game of football, the absolute logic is that it will descend into bathos and it did. The streets thronged with life, balloons were sent skywards, the crowd sang gloriously, the march was pretty awful.

It started well enough. Wilkinson made a deep cross and steered it towards Redfearn, who instinctively redirected it across Miklosko. It

was fitting that Redfearn, the club captain and a Yorkshireman, should score the first Barnsley goal in the top division.

Barnsley have two fine proponents of a long, forgotten art in Bullock and Hendrie. They are both expert dribblers, able to caress the ball with their instep and move gracefully past players of greater physical stature. In the kick-and-rush heat of a summer afternoon, their artistry was pleasing, though not particularly incisive.

The visiting team showed nothing but bruising endeavour in the first half, but found a rhythm after

the interval. A hopeful cross was met bravely by Hartson and he lifted it into the Barnsley net. Watson, who had seemed nervous in goal, had recklessly left his line and had to watch it sail over his head and outstretched arms.

West Ham had two Frank Lampards on the bench. Frank Lampard Jr, son of the former West Ham defender who is now assistant manager, was sent on to add pep to an already industrious midfield. He played a simple pass at the halfway line and then moved stealthily through the Barnsley defence to meet a cross from

Lazaridis. Lampard scuffed the ball, but this served to place it cruelly beyond the diving Watson.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said afterwards that a tactical switch at half-time had guaranteed the victory. "We over-loaded the midfield after the break and took control of the game. Barnsley worked hard. No one will come here and have an easy game. I can promise them that," he said.

Wilson agreed that his young goalkeeper was to blame for the first West Ham goal. "In this division, you can't give anyone half a chance, because they will take it.

The keeper made the one mistake and the ball was in the back of the net," he said.

At *fresco* press conferences will remain collectors' items at Barnsley this season and Wilson now has to work long hours on the training ground to ensure that home defeats are of the same scarceness.

BARNESLEY (3-5-2): D Watson — A de Zwaan, P Sharpe (sub: C Maccauley, 82min), A Moses — N Eaden, E Iholer, M Bullock (sub: A Ledwell, 84), N Lazaridis, F Lampard Jr, Todd — J Hendrie, P Wilcock (sub: G Hirster, 88).
WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-1-2): I. Makoski — M Reiper, P Ferdinand, S Polje — T Bracken (sub: S Parker, 46), S Lumb, J Morrus, M Hughes — B Beckford (sub: D Lester, 78) — J Harton, P Nixon (sub: D Tame, 89).
Referee: A Wilkes.

Newcastle shaped by Asprilla's elasticity



NEWCASTLE UNITED 2
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1

By Ivo Tenant

FOR Kenny Dalglish, there has been no respite this summer from pesky sniping. His tactics, his transfer dealings and his supposed submission to the bean counters have not found universal favour on Tyneside. Come the kick-off, so fluent was Newcastle's passing, so integrated their five newcomers, that there was no necessity for any further carpentry.

No even a bicycle kick by Carbone, for Sheffield Wednesday, that will be a contender for goal of the season, let alone of the month, could prevent this victory. Asprilla, who has to carry the attack in the absence of Shearer and Ferdinand, scored both goals, the second with the kind of sharp finishing not always apparent in August. His celebratory cartwheeling was true to type.

The one chant for Kevin Keegan, early in the afternoon, drifted away on the breeze. There was nothing quixotic about Newcastle's football and some of the inter-passing was comparable with Dalglish's Liverpool of old. In Pistone, he has acquired a defender who does not have recourse to the occasional crude clearances seen from the absent Peacock.

In goal, Given saved one free kick from Pembridge at full stretch but had all too little to do. Tomasson, the Dane, inadvertently created Asprilla's second goal. Ketsbaia, the much-travelled Georgian, also had a part in this and he, too, will be all the sharper once he has picked up the pace of the English game. Pearce was, well, simply Pearce.

Perhaps it was not surprising that Asprilla should appear so characteristically elastic in his movement. During the summer, he has been playing in his native



Asprilla: two timely goals

Colombia and, unlike Ravanelli, was not penalised for returning late for pre-season training. At one stage during the summer, his agent thought he had set up a transfer to Parma, but negotiations came to nothing. Nor did the assumption that Dalglish would like to offload him, anyway. Now, what with injuries and departures, there should be greater opportunities for him at St James' Park. The occasional sulien moods of last season have, for the time being, gone.

"They never got behind us," Todd agreed. "Southampton will be looking at themselves and thinking that they didn't create. We did, which is important. We have a good blend and we'll keep trying to play in the right manner, by moving the ball."

Jones insisted that he was not downhearted, although his morose expression contradicted his words.

"There's an awful long way to go," he said. "The experts have written us off anyway: it's down to us to prove them wrong." A chance to do just that comes on Wednesday when Southampton visit Manchester United. Jones will hope that his team can translate their excellent home record against the champions into a good result at Old Trafford. Well, there's no harm in hoping.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P Jones — M Oulridge, K McAllister, R Dyer, L Todd — R Sibley (sub: Uwe Götze, 85min), J Magilton, N McDevitt, A Williams (sub: K Davies, 70) — M Evans (sub: S Parker, 46).
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — N Cox, G Bergson, G Taggart, R Elliott — J Pollicino, P Franssen, A Thompson, S Sellers — N Balmer, J McDevitt (sub: M Bodenham).
Referee: M Bodenham.

Blackburn take chance to revel in Hodgson's happy return



BLACKBURN ROVERS 1
DERBY COUNTY 0
By Peter Robinson

IT WAS more summer fun than football match. There was somebody on stilts, a mine armed with a water pistol, parachutists, postman girls and, if you're not a man with a bag on his head, juggling machetes. Had the bouncy castle not been booked by a family 500 yards down the road, that, presumably, would have been set up as well.

True, it was Roy Hodgson's fifth birthday, but that was not the reason for the party atmosphere at Ewood Park on Saturday, nor was it a spontaneous display of Lancastrian *jolie à vivre* — no, Blackburn was celebrating the start of the football season, the best day of the season, the day when the sun shines, the pitch glistens, when every new player is a hero and when everything is possible.

Blackburn Rovers won — of course they did, it was in the script — but they did so with gentlemanly decency, allowing Derby County to leave with heads held high. Nobody was reading too much into victory or defeat, quite rightly, and everybody acknowledged the positive.

Jim Smith, for example. "We had a strong case for a point," the Derby manager said. "We started nervously, Blackburn played well and you could see the goal coming.

After that, it was our game. I thought we had a case for a penalty ... and so on and so forth. He did not say "but never mind, eh," but he didn't need to, it was understood.

IT WAS business as usual for Roy Hodgson, the ultimate continental manager, played good old English 4-4-2, but there's always one.

Of those who got a game, Erario (Italy) looked silly smooth when he got the ball on the Derby right,

which was not often. Filan (Australia) impressed, making one fine save from Hunt, Henchoz (Switzerland)

was arguably the best player on the field, Valery (France) a dependable right back and Dahlin (Sweden), a latcomer, did enough to please Hodgson, who, on the evidence of his press conference, is a consummate performer in his own right.

The line about Malmö beating Sundsvall 4-0 away on his fortieth birthday was a nice one, slipped into a monologue that appeared to praise everyone but him.

In fact, there appeared to be only one long face in Blackburn on Saturday, belonging to the young fan on Mill Hill station wearing a brand new Rovers shirt with the words "Le Sauvage" on the back. "I've heard all the jokes, all day," he said ruefully. "I even tried to pull the letters off this morning, but I couldn't." Oh yes.

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If played in February, this match would send fans home early to kick the dog'

Teddy pays penalty for spot decision

Well, I have to say, the decision of the Tottenham Hotspur crowd, needs quite a lot of work. The regular chant of "Leave out Teddy, stand up" may have had lots of people jumping to their feet yesterday in the usual cacophony of Manchester United's atmosphere at the afternoon sun — but I suspect most of them were getting out of habit and just second-guessing the exact wording of the cause. It was a funny afternoon for a crowd stuff.

The referee's from Hampshire? No he wasn't. I checked the programme, he was from Herts. You'll never meet Sol Campbell? Minimum Self-evident, surely?

Spend a few weeks away from football crowds and you have no idea what they're going on about. What was this? You lost, you lost? chanted, accompanied by arms pointed accusingly at Tottenham Teddy? Perhaps it was "You left, you left", or perhaps a political and surprising "New Left, New Left?" But it turned out to be "Judas, Judas". Which, I suppose, we should have known.

No a popular chap at White Hart Lane yesterday, Teddy. His own new team wasn't particularly impressed, his manager uttered faint praise, and as for the locals — well, it was blood-on-the-carpet time. Boiled whenever he touched the ball, cheered when his penalty kick bounded hilariously off the post, halved even when fouled by his former-teammate, Ramon Vega, in the opening minutes. Good sportsmanship it wasn't.

Last year I was at Brighton when a famous old boy, Gary Nelson, came on for Torquay United to generous welcome-back applause. No such luck for Teddy at Tottenham yester-

day, where evidently they have never heard that bitterness is, ultimately, a self-destructive emotion. It's amazing there was no sacrificial pyre of old treasured Sheringham memorabilia in the car park.

If the Poor Old Teddy story gave the match an edge, not much else did, except that by a happy chance I placed a bet on Manchester United to win 2-0 and, by further lucky chance, didn't tear up the slip when no score looked possible.

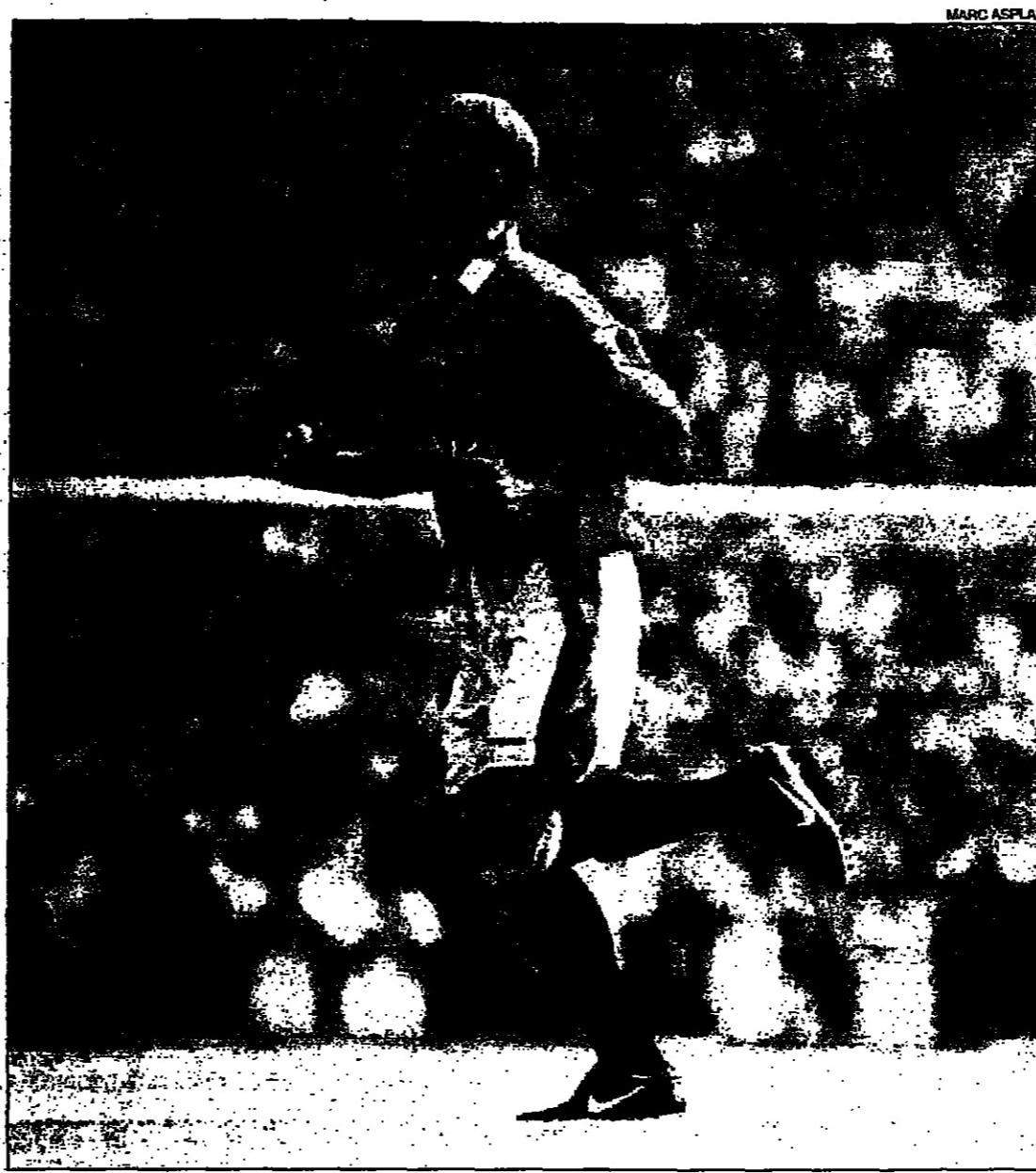
On another personal note, I was of course thrilled to see the excellent Frenchman, David Ginola, taking centre stage for Tottenham, doing lots of Emerson-style slaloms through mob-handled defenders, and showing off his new longer, blonder hair, pinned up in a fetching hair clip.

But Tottenham's other recruit, Les Ferdinand, was studly and unremarkable, and all the home team's sterling efforts in

the first half to push goalwards ended in groans. You know the kind of thing. Yes, yes, yes, groan. Yes, yes, yes, nearly, groan. Hang on, what's this oh no, whoops, groan. Could it be, no, it can't, groan.

An enormous crowd buzz was maintained throughout this bathetic affair, but only because the whole country is revived from its summer holidays and fed up with cricket. The same match played in the drizzle of February would find supporters home early to kick the dog and sink in a cupboard.

But it was nice to see those stout Spurs fans so animated, if only in rather illogical hatred of their former hero. The best thing about the start of a season is that teams such as Spurs can imagine they're as good as anybody, which must be lovely for them. True, this charitable clean-



Home and away: Sheringham returns to White Hart Lane amid a chorus of jeers yesterday

state system is based on strategic amnesia, but it works.

It works for players, too. Chaps such as Ginola can have a fresh start — coming to a new club to hear a resounding "Gin-Ola, Gin-O-la", a cheer borrowed from Newcastle, where it just happened to be unemployed during the last six months of last season.

Guessing who would be the man of the match was pretty easy, for once. Sol Campbell — the man I'll never meet — was so extraordinary in his job as last-line of defence that he seemed sort of supernatural. Skinny Ian Walker, waiting in the outside mints behind that Trojan Campbell, I've been thinking of little Martin

was forever in the situation of the weaker doubles partner in badminton, saying "No, no, you have it. Oh, well done! No I didn't want it. You go. I'm OK. I've got these mints to take care of. Er, excellent, thanks."

Sheringham, as everyone knows, was not the man of the match, just its focal point. But in retrospect, perhaps he should be congratulated for not bursting into tears. It is really very stupid of the Tottenham supporters to hate him. His transfer may be the worst thing they could imagine in their most horrific nightmares, but it's still just football, and it's still just part of life's rich tapestry. Personally,

I've been thinking of little Martin Fowler in *EastEnders*, on whose bedroom wall a pencil portrait of Teddy will now be draped with black. Sorrow I can understand, but this rage is completely ridiculous.

On the other hand, Sheringham's glorious missed penalty was pure delight for a number of reasons too complex to examine. Sheringham decided to take on the crowd, and he lost. The other week at the fourth Test at Headingly, a group on a stag night turned up in togas and laurel wreaths, where it just happened to be unemployed during the last six months of last season.

Fowler in *EastEnders*, on whose bedroom wall a pencil portrait of Teddy will now be draped with black. Sorrow I can understand, but this rage is completely ridiculous.

Super rich mask an underclass of beggar clubs

FOR ALL the money swirling around British football, the country's clubs are still haemorrhaging cash — at a level likely to be around £140 million this season alone. Stories of Manchester United's multimillion-pound profit disguise the much sadder tale across the rest of the Football League, where seven clubs in ten finished the season in the red.

Deloitte & Touche, the City accountancy firm, last week diagnosed the financial health of football clubs in a 64-page report that makes grim reading. More than two-thirds of the money in the game is going to clubs in the FA Carling Premiership, it said, and this allure is prompting many smaller clubs to gamble on promotion by spending millions on new players and new stadiums.

This is warns, is creating a wide profitability spectrum, with superteams at one end and a league of financial basket-cases at the other.

Gerry Boon, who compiled

the Deloitte & Touche report, says that the availability of these local heroes is drying up. He says she will not mind a £25,000-a-year loss.

Boon said of any prospective saviour, "but when he's being asked to find a quarter of a million a year, like the way it's heading now, it's a different story."

There is one possible escape route. Looking five to ten years into the future, Boon expects the bonds between television companies and football to have become so strong that many Premiership clubs will become wholly-owned by media firms or large advertisers. This would leave the same amount of money chasing fewer clubs and give the smaller ones more of a chance.

FRASER NELSON

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

Al-Fayed, whose enthusiasm for snapping up British institutions led to his £30 million acquisition of Fulham three months ago.

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SPORTS LETTERS

Other ways to enhance English cricket

From Mr Ned Paul

Sir, Having proposed one Americanism — the adoption of conference play — in their blueprint for the game (report, August 6) the England and Wales Cricket Board should take on another, the "farm" system. First-class counties should enter into a contractual relationship with minor counties to act as development squads. Thus, "Triple-A" Hertfordshire might be the reserve team for "First-Class" Essex and this would be repeated around the country.

Thirty-eight county-boards, as at present, is an awkward number, however. Nineteen first-class and 19 Triple-A clubs is a possibility but expansion to 20 at each level would be better.

An obvious place to put one of the expansion first-class sides is in the Thames Valley "silicon triangle" area. Whether you call this Berkshire, Buckinghamshire or Oxfordshire is moot, but the potential for corporate sponsorship and corporate hospitality in this area is incontrovertible.

Yours etc,
NED PAUL,
37 Sandycombe Road,
Twickenham, Middlesex.

Given the situation, and mindful of the fact that Warwickshire wished to postpone their semi-final by a day to avoid a clash with the first game of the football season at Villa Park, would it not have been appropriate to swap the two semi-finals?

In doing this, Warwickshire and Sussex would play on the day after the Test, thus avoiding the clash with the football, and Essex and Glamorgan would play on the following day, giving the Test players a day off between the two games.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ABRAHAM,
3a Llanbleddian Gardens,
Cathays,
Cardiff.

Football's tasks

From Mr Bruno J. Clifton

Sir, Brian Glanville's critique of the Government's "Football Taskforce" (July 29) to consider ways and means of tackling certain aspects of the modern game is apposite and accurate enough as far as it goes. The problems and deformities of contemporary football cannot be solved either by Government directive or by a simplistic domestic approach.

Venality, bureaucracy and the ludicrous transfer system are the evils destroying the game, which, some time in the next century, will become an obsolescent pastime of the few, an historical oddity, much as we look upon the Roman games of the amphitheatre.

Teams now bear no resemblance to the place they supposedly represent, with players from distant parts of the country and distant countries involved in absurd musical chairs of the transfer market.

Big business is dictating

when games shall be played, how often, what strips will be worn at home and away, how leagues are comprised and so forth. The bureaucrats with little or no experience of the game meddle with the rules and peripheral adjuncts to the detriment of entertainment.

No footballer is worth the ludicrous wages many command, nor, it might be added, the slave fees involved in buying him. Hooliganism and racism are sideline issues associated with spectators, society and contemporary mores rather than football itself.

Referees, too, are playing

their part in the destruction of the game with terrible decisions which cost clubs advancement in the cup competitions and league places.

Yours faithfully,

BRUNO J. CLIFTON,
8 Perry-Bryn Road,
Cyncoed.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 521. They should include a daytime telephone number, e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Worrying precedent

From Mr Nick Economou

Sir, Weren't Steve Waugh's actions at Taunton (report, August 4), in response to taunts from a small band of intimated spectators last weekend, extraordinary? What would happen if English captains applied the same doctrine at the Sydney Cricket Ground, the Adelaide Oval, or the most famous of sporting bloodbaths, the Melbourne Cricket Ground?

Voluminous abuse of the English of a personal nature is almost obligatory behaviour at these venues — especially when the World Series Cup one-day is being played under lights.

I find Waugh's actions a little perplexing, and I fear that there is a slight ring of double standards in the Australian response to the Taunton crowd. Having a captain responsible for the eviction of rowdies sets a worrying precedent. I hope we don't all have to behave ourselves down under in summers to come, lest the England captain threatens to have Bay 13 or the Hill evacuated of boorish boys.

Yours etc.,
NICK ECONOMOU,
24 Bordeaux Avenue,
Blackburn,
Victoria 3130, Australia.
Nick.Economou@msn.com.au

Benefits for all

From Mr John MacLaren

Sir, The stupidity of present grand prix motor racing extends far beyond the first corner (Sports Letters, August 4). The fact that the aerodynamics, resulting from the present construction formula, has almost eliminated overtaking in many parts of most circuits is equally ridiculous.

Proponents of the sport point to the design benefits passed down to the ordinary motorist. Since most of us motor on bumpy surfaces, the smooth surfaces of race circuits are unrealistic if tracks were required to incorporate a good proportion of realistically bumpy mileage, racing car designs would be forced to have more ground clearance and suspension travel. This would result in the development of improved suspension technology for the ultimate benefit of us all.

Yours etc.,
JOHN MACLAREN,
Bee Close House, Little Preston,
Daventry, Northamptonshire,
NN12 8JL, UK.

Do you think that, if the BBC sends David Coleman to cover enough retirement stories, he might take the hint? On Saturday afternoon, there was precious little sign of it as Linford Christie rewarded his temporary employer with its own little scoop — our greatest sprinter had run his last race.

Was it, Coleman asked, a question of the body no longer doing what the mind tells it to do? Not for Christie it wasn't, but that would certainly explain some of the problems that Coleman has encountered at the world championships.

These are nothing to do with the threat problem that turned him into a dalek for the first few days, or his endearing tendency for the inopportune, which, early on Saturday morning, led him to describe Lidia Simon's bronze medal in the women's marathon as a "triumph of guts". For those who managed to miss this breakfast-time treat, Simon had been physically sick after missing a drink.

No, these are real mistakes athletes mis-identified (sometimes wildly), nationalities confused (increasingly forgivable) and finishes that are called wrong. Together with a commentary style ever more dependent on simply

This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow

The Fastnet Race offers Britain a last hope of Admiral's Cup glory

Wednesday

Who will be heading for Lord's and the NatWest Trophy final — Essex or Glamorgan?

Thursday

The world's finest golfers gather for the last major tournament of the year, the US PGA

Friday

Nelson Piquet returns to the scene of his historic showjumping victory at the Hickstead Derby

MATTHEW BOND TV ACTION REPLAY



stating the obvious, one can only hope that Coleman — for the sake of his own reputation — wakes up one day soon in the same frame of mind as Christie. That's it, no more.

One of the best reasons for stepping aside is in place. Stuart Storey and Paul Dickenson have had a splendid week covering track and field, while Brendan Foster has been outstanding. He did sterling work during both marathons, while his tactical reading of Paula Radcliffe's gallant run turned the women's 5,000 metres into a vertiginous Greek tragedy.

In the presentation studio, Des Lynn has had a lovely week surrounded by people who are much better at athletics than he is but nothing like as good at broadcasting.

"Need a bit of a cough, David?" he inquired solicitously, as Moorcroft's summertime gurgles on the unscheduled stop. While Lynn plays the Everyman (why no gold medals for Britain? why no world records?), his revolving panel of ageing athletes (Christie, Foster) turned his attention to the javelin.

"That Joanna Stone," he observed, "not your typical thrower, is she?" Gunnell, who knew exactly what he was talking about, gave him an old-fashioned look and launched into a complex discussion about musculature and throwing arms. That will teach him to mix it with an Essex Lady.

□ ITV experienced agony and ecstasy with its *Formula One* coverage yesterday. The ecstasy was Damon Hill coming within a lap of winning the Hungarian Grand Prix. The agony was that just a few seconds before Hill overtook Michael Schumacher and went into the lead... ITV went to its first commercial break. They will have enjoyed that round at the BBC.

Outsider

The result was that Steve Cram, Tim Hutchings and the rest of the lively Eurosport team gained the upper hand but twice — once on Friday afternoon, when BBC Sport could not decide whether the Test match or Jonathan Edwards was more important, and again on Saturday, when a combination of football results on BBC1 and cricket on BBC2 ensured that the satellite channel at least had Great Britain's qualifying round of the 4x100 metres to itself.

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Outsider

The world's finest golfers gather for the last major tournament of the year, the US PGA

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GOLF: UNITED STATES ARE DELAYED BUT EDGE EVER CLOSER TO AN OVERWHELMING VICTORY

Rally keeps Walker Cup hopes alive

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN SCARSDALE, NEW YORK

GARY WOLSTENHOLME and Justin Rose staged a stirring finish in their foursomes match against Randy Leen and Chris Wollmann on the morning of the second day of the Walker Cup at Quaker Ridge yesterday. Wolstenholme and Rose rallied from one down after the 11th to defeat Leen and Wollmann by 2 and 1.

This made sure that the match remained alive until the afternoon. Nonetheless, the United States held a lead of 11½-4½ over Great Britain and Ireland and needed only one point from the singles to regain the trophy that they last won in 1993.

It was a very disappointing performance from a team widely believed to be the best prepared ever and one of the most capable. One player after another failed to reproduce the form shown at home while the Americans demonstrated both the accuracy and control needed to play well on a course as narrow and demanding as Quaker Ridge.

One of golf's oldest laws is that an amateur level par golf is good enough to win at matchplay more often than not. It was demonstrated again in the second day's foursomes, which the United States won 3-1. By one estimate, Great Britain and Ireland were a cumulative 4½ over par for the two days of foursomes.

Wolstenholme and Rose could be excused the criticism aimed at their team-mates for their play in the foursomes on the second morning was courageous and skillful. They are a potent force when on song: Wolstenholme loves the spotlight and the fact that he is by far the shortest hitter on either side does not bother him; Rose, after hitting one of the wildest drives in Walker Cup history on the first morning, continued to demonstrate a maturity that is remarkable in one who is only 11 days past his seventeenth birthday.

Wollmann and Leen were three times one hole ahead and each time were hauled back to be level by the turn. Wolstenholme and Rose regained holes either by holing long putts or chipping in. The two Englishmen took the lead for the first time in the match on the 15th, where Wolsten-



Watson, of Great Britain and Ireland, has to play out of the trees after hitting a wayward tee shot. Photograph: David Cannon / ALLSPORT

holme holed an eight-foot putt that curled viciously for a bogey five that was better than the Americans' six.

Then, on the 16th, Wolstenholme hit a magnificent shot from a fairway bunker to nine feet and Rose sank the putt. All week, Rose has had to cope with questions from Americans of the order of "how does it feel to be Britain's Tiger Woods?" and now he behaved like Woods. He clenched his fist and gave a perfect demonstration of a Woods gesture that is becoming increasingly familiar.

It was essential that the British got off to a good start early yesterday morning and this is what happened. They won the opening hole in two of the four matches and halved it in the other two. Suddenly, there was a hope, albeit a faint one, that the overnight deficit of five points could be reduced sufficiently to make the 36th match into a half-decent contest.

Yefit did not last long. Steven Young and Craig Watson were comfortably defeated by John Harris, the senior statesman of the American team, and Brad Elder, 3 and 2. Harris, competing in his third Walker Cup, has been an inspiration to young team-mates destined for the professional ranks. Calm and

competitive, he guided Elder throughout their match and the two of them were only one over par when the match was concluded on the 16th green. Watson and Young were six over par.

Then Barday Howard and Graham Rankin ran into some fine golf from Buddy Marucci and Jerry Courville.

Howard, who was expected to fulfil the same role for the British as Harris did for the United States, never found his game in the heat. Despite birdieing the 1st and the 9th, they were three down at the turn to Courville and Marucci. Both scrapped doggedly against Duke Delcher and Steve Scott.

Though they won the 17th to

get back to all-square, when Park held a short putt, the match ended disappointingly — and yet somehow typically of much of the visitors' play in this match. After a wild drive by Coughlan, the Americans won the hole and the match with nothing better than a par.

DETAILS

RESULTS (United States names first): Friday, Foursomes: 1. Elder and J. Kobil vs B. Marucci and J. Rose 2. Courville and B. Marucci vs J. Rose and C. Watson 3. Young and Watson vs K. Harris and G. Rankin 4. Howard and G. Rankin vs D. Delcher and S. Scott Saturday, Foursomes: 1. Leen and Wollmann vs C. Watson and G. Rankin 2. Watson and Young vs K. Harris and G. Rankin 3. Young and Watson vs K. Harris and G. Rankin 4. Wollmann and Leen vs D. Delcher and S. Scott Sunday, Singles: 1. Watson vs K. Harris 2. Young vs D. Delcher 3. Wollmann vs G. Rankin 4. Leen vs S. Scott 5. Howard vs J. Coughlan 6. Young vs G. Rankin 7. Watson vs D. Delcher 8. Wollmann vs S. Scott 9. Leen vs G. Rankin 10. Young vs D. Delcher 11. Watson vs S. Scott 12. Wollmann vs G. Rankin 13. Leen vs G. Rankin 14. Young vs D. Delcher 15. Watson vs S. Scott 16. Wollmann vs G. Rankin 17. Leen vs G. Rankin 18. Young vs D. Delcher 19. Watson vs S. Scott 20. Wollmann vs G. Rankin 21. Leen vs G. Rankin 22. Young vs D. Delcher 23. Watson vs S. Scott 24. Wollmann vs G. Rankin 25. Leen vs G. Rankin 26. Young vs D. Delcher 27. Watson vs S. Scott 28. Wollmann vs G. Rankin 29. Leen vs G. Rankin 30. Young vs D. Delcher 31. Watson vs S. Scott 32. Wollmann vs G. Rankin 33. Leen vs G. Rankin 34. Young vs D. Delcher 35. Watson vs S. Scott 36. Wollmann vs G. Rankin

Wolves see red and ease threat of relegation

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WARRINGTON WOLVES eased their Stones Super League relegation fears with a rousing 23-3 victory over Salford Reds at Widnes yesterday. The Wolves showed their teeth after a string of disappointing results sealing a deserved win with second-half tries from Salesi Finau and Nigel Vagana.

Salford failed to reproduce the form that had carried them to victory over North Queensland Cowboys last week and knocked Warrington out of the Challenge Cup earlier this season. The Reds also had David Huilme placed on report in the 48th minute for the alleged use of his elbow on Jon Roper.

Levi Penny had to pull off an early try-saving tackle on Scott Naylor and the full back immediately supported a break from Vagana to touch down for a try under the posts with a Lee Briers conversion giving Warrington a 6-0 lead after ten minutes.

Warrington lost Mark Hilton after only two minutes with a shoulder injury and, after Salford had a try disallowed by Naylor for obstruction, the Reds opened their account with a Steve Blakeley

try in the 12th minute.

But then Paul Sculthorpe collected his near kick ahead and fed Vagana, who put Willie Swann over for his seventh try of the season and Briers added the conversion to make it 12-2.

An error by Finau conceded a penalty try to Darren Rogers just before the break, with the conversion by Blakeley giving Salford hope at 12-8 down at the interval.

However, Finau went over in the corner to give Warrington breathing space at 16-8 before Vagana scored the win, with Briers adding his third conversion and then landing a late dropped goal.

Paris Saint-Germain are not yet out of trouble, but a 32-0 victory last Saturday over Halifax Blue Sox should go a long way to preserving their Super League status. The match was the first of two which were switched from

Paris to the south of the country because of the French holidays and a healthy crowd of 7,743 at Narbonne witnessed their comprehensive victory.

Halifax, now without a league win in seven matches, tasted defeat at the hands of the French side for the second time in six weeks. Their season is petering out badly as Paris are enjoying their most profitable spell. On Wednesday, they play at St Helens in the European play-off in the world club championship for the right to meet Brisbane Broncos in the quarter-finals in October.

Paris moved clear of Castleford Tigers and Oldham Bears at the bottom of the table with a six-trv victory that clearly delighted Andy Goodway, the English coach, who is coaxing the best out of the mainly Australian players.

"I was particularly pleased with this performance. Everything went as we practised," he said.

Briit defending and a lack of imagination in attack conspired against Halifax, as Phil Bergman collected three tries and others were scored by Jason Eade, Paul Evans and Anthony Hancock. Matt O'Connor landed four goals as Paris triumphed by the biggest winning margin for a league game in the club's brief history. They return next Saturday to Narbonne for the match against Warrington.

Castleford's plight worsened in the 22-13 defeat on Friday night by London Broncos, whose victory has briefly held up Bradford Bulls' charge towards the title. Terry Matterson, the London captain, dismissed his team's outside chance of stealing the title from under Bradford's nose.

"Even if Bradford were to lose four games, their points for and against are too strong and I can't see them losing four games," Matterson said. "I hope they win them all because we play them in the last game of the Super League season. That should be a great game."

Alfredsson reveals fighting qualities in runaway victory

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

HELEN ALFREDSSON, a Swede predictable only in her unpredictability, was the runaway winner of the McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe at Gleneagles yesterday. She finished with a round of 70, two under par, for a total of 276, four shots ahead of Kathryn Marshall, the leading Scot, and Charlotte Sorenstam, yet another talented Swede. Trish Johnson and Lora Fairclough, of England, shared fourth place with Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, of France.

Fairclough, just a shot behind Alfredsson at the turn, struggled home in 41, six over par, as the wind changed to an easterly and removed the O'Malley factor from the King's Course's finish.

"I can't even tell you in words what this means," she said, clutching a cheque for £45,000. "A year ago, I was as down as I've ever been and I didn't have a solution. I was

miserable. To have come back so soon and to feel that I was playing well, it's unbelievable."

There is little that is simple or straightforward about Alfredsson — she had to learn to walk properly again as well as rediscover her golf swing — and she came back her way, mixing horrendous shots with flashes of brilliance. She worked hard at simplifying her routine — she had become an irritating fiddler, largely as a result of physical discomfort — and yesterday she stuck to it, even in the heat of battle.

Janice Moodie, from Dunrobin, near Clydebank, was the leading amateur, finishing with a level-par 72 for a total of 286. She and Mhairi McKay, who missed the cut, make their professional debuts in the Weetabix Women's British Open at Sunningdale this week.

Scores, page 36

Richards flies home in high wind

THE Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour's busiest week of the season saw three events staged over a selection of the finest golfing terrain in the country (Mel Webb writes). The week started with the boys being given a searching examination by Royal Birkdale, the venue for next year's Open Championship, and continued with visits to Seaton Carew and Barnham Broom.

Birkdale was at its toughest on Monday for the fifth tournament of the season in the national division of the Tour, which is being staged this year in association with The Times.

With easterly winds of up to 30mph, a winning score of 70, one under par, by Stephen Richards, who plays at Cartridge Park, was an exceptional effort. Andi Pye, of Braintree, was an early finisher and had to wait for most of the day before Richards came in to beat him by a single shot. Pye made only one serious error — a double bogey, the 13th — but it was enough to cost him victory.

Those in authority at Seaton Carew the next day set

the players in the northern division the toughest of all possible tests. The wind blew and, with the field playing off the back tees, Craig Allison, of Clitheroe, and James Salt of Ringway, did pretty well to come in with matching 77s. Allison claiming victory after a countback. Benjamin Wood, Daniel Wardrop and James Holmes tied for third place, with Holmes consolidating his position at the top

of the northern division order of merit.

Conditions were considerably more benign when the southern players went to beautiful Barnham Broom in Norfolk on Friday. Four over par after ten holes, Mark Booker, a member at Royal Mid-Surrey, took advantage of the easier back nine to produce a winning score of 71 level par. Philip Palmer was second, a stroke behind.

For further information contact Colin Schmitz at The Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour office on 01425 674486

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CRICKET

Lancashire outbid Sussex for Warne

By DEREK HODGSON

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss): Warwickshire (4pts) beat Lancashire by 21 runs

LANCASHIRE have confirmed that they have made an offer to Shane Warne, Australia's leg-spinner, to become their overseas professional next season. The offer, a contract worth six figures, is dependent on medical advice given to their professional Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, on a recurring shoulder injury that has made him miss most of this summer.

A Lancashire spokesman said last night: "Both players know the situation. Our priority has to be to protect Wasim's future as a Test player and it may be that he will be advised to give up the extra strain of county cricket." Lancashire's offer to Warne is believed to exceed that of Sussex, who are also reported to have offered a contract worth more than £100,000. Warne, speaking on television yesterday, gave the impression that he knew he would be playing in England next summer.

His presence could hardly have improved yesterday's attendance of 8,000, competing as Lancashire were with live television appearances by England's cricketers and Manchester United. The teams were joint Axa league leaders, Lancashire having a game in hand, and as this competition now represents Lancashire's only hope of a success in 1997, this match was crucial.

So with Warwickshire at 53 for four, off 12 overs, Lancashire appeared to have the points bagged. Even that score represented a recovery, from 24 for three, instigated by the captain, whose 28 included a curious flat six over cover off Peter Martin.

Once Martin and Ian Austin had been relieved the old firm of Dominic Oster and Trevor Penney were able to

7

Holloway restores the smiles

By PAT GIBSON

TAUNTON (Somerset won toss): Leicestershire (4pts) beat Gloucestershire by 73 runs

A SCINTILLATING 117 by Piran Holloway, his first century in one-day cricket, coupled with a magical bowling spell from Mushtaq Ahmed, delivered a severe blow to Gloucestershire's hopes of winning the Axa Life League title in a match that was full of meaning to these West Country rivals.

It was played on the pitch that Somerset wanted to use for the championship match and they took great delight in scoring 267 for eight from their 40 overs before dismissing Gloucestershire for 194.

On Saturday night, the Somerset players had been locked in their dressing room for an inquest into their feeble championship performance in which they collapsed to 38 for six on a blameless batting surface and just managed to hold on for a draw.

Yesterday, Somerset rattled along at more than six runs an over with the diminutive Holloway receiving splendid support from Ecclestone and Bowler. Ecclestone helped him put on 107 in 16 overs for the second wicket before he was caught at long on for 44. Bowler contributed 46 off only 38 balls to a third-wicket partnership of 90 in 13 overs when he was held at mid-wicket.

Holloway, looking like a rag doll in the sweltering heat, batted on to his 117 off 107 balls with 11 fours. Somerset managed only 65 for the loss of six wickets in the last ten overs, but it did not really matter.

Wright and Hancock gave Gloucestershire a decent start, but they were in trouble as soon as Mushtaq was introduced for the twelfth over. He had Wright caught off his fourth ball and conceded only 14 runs from his eight overs. Rose completed his eight for 20 runs and the wicket of Hancock and Gloucestershire were doomed when Harden ran out Young with a direct hit from long off. Burns took four wickets to return his best Sunday figures.

Smith keeps title aspirations alive

By JACK BAILEY

EASTBOURNE (Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire (4pts) beat Sussex by 44 runs

THE Leicestershire running return home with something for the larder. The Sunday league title remains in sight. Their total of 184, though achieved with difficulty, was built round a fine 71 from Ben Smith and was followed by a disciplined display in the field. Dominic Williamson's brisk medium pace earned him career-best figures of five for 32.

That Leicestershire wound up their innings within the realms of respectability owed much to Smith. A popular man, he was roared on by his colleagues at every turn and gave good measure for the support he received.

At 51 for four, the Leicestershire innings was in need of revival and Smith and the left-handed Dakin began the reconstruction with a standard 60 in 14 overs before Dakin

Hutchison swings into contention

By ALISTAIR STORIE

PAUL HUTCHISON, with match figures of 11 for 102 in only his fourth first-class match, took Yorkshire to an unlikely victory over Pakistan A by 69 runs. The tall, 20-year-old former England Under-19 international swung the ball prodigiously and, in this uncertain time for emerging professionals, has surely earned the right to closer inspection.

Yorkshire's pace attack, perhaps sensing the new ball was crucial, bowled more purposefully than in the first innings. Hutchison was immediately on target, trapping Raza, the Test player, in front. Wasim and Rana followed in successive balls after lunch and, at 63 for six, Pakistan A appeared to be folding. Elahi, unpenetrable for 140 balls, gave the touring team a ray of hope, but the reintroduction of Hutchison saw that evaporate.

Although Richard Johnson, in a surprise appearance at No. 3, made 21 from ten balls, the Middlesex innings lacked momentum until Pooley



Trevor Penney of Warwickshire cuts Gary Yates for two in front of a small crowd at Old Trafford yesterday.

Kent improve double chances

By BARNEY SPENDER

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Kent (4pts) beat Essex by 17 runs

KENT have played some good cricket in the past week and they have been well rewarded for it, with the result that the disappointment of the Benson and Hedges Cup final in June, when they froze in the Surrey headlights, has given way to the reasonable prospect of an impressive double.

On Saturday, they completed an innings victory over Essex that lifted them to the top of the county championship and, yesterday, a comprehensive win over the same opponents at a packed and festive St Lawrence Ground moved them up to second in the Axa Life League, two points behind the leaders, Warwickshire.

There was just one sticky period, when they collapsed from 44 without loss to 52 for four in the space of five overs, but once Mark Esham and Graham Cowdry, who both made half-centuries, had rebuilt the innings with a mus-

cular partnership of 89 in 14 overs, they never looked back. The bowlers, particularly Alan Iglesias, hit their straps and the fielding and catching was of the highest order.

For Essex, though, there was rather less to shout about. They have played falteringly this season, a mixture of excellence and drudgery, and, for the second week running, their performance belied the latter. It was hardly a good preparation for tomorrow's

NatWest Trophy semi-final against Glamorgan and the prospect of going into that game without Paul Prichard, their captain, who tore a hamstring during the championship game can only serve to blight their spirits even further.

A target of 224 should have been within their compass, but once Stuart Law, who took over the captaincy, was well caught by Cowdry in the fourth over, they seemed to lose their heads. Darren Robinson spooned a crack to mid-on and Ronnie Irani ran himself out before he had even faced a ball.

That made it 33 for three and rather than rebuild, the remaining Essex batsmen, with the exception of Paul Grayson, played with a careless extravagance that allowed Kent to wrap up the match with 122 overs to spare.

Trevor Ward and Matthew Walker had given Kent a flying start with an opening partnership of 44 for the first wicket before both went in the space of four balls. In the ninth over, Walker swung casually at Irani's fourth ball and Ward, who had just reached 4,000 runs in the competition, was then bowled by Stuart Law's first ball of the next over.

Nigel Llong and Alan Wells, stumped by Robert Rollins off a Stuart Law wide, joined the procession to leave Kent in some disarray, but Esham and Cowdry, and together they repaired the damage with an array of genuine shots and streaky slogs.

Esham's test credentials may be a matter of lengthy debate, but there is little doubt that he is a more valuable one-day player and here he began the revival by dispatching Ashley Cowan to the boundary either side of the wicket off successive deliveries. He reached 50 from 67 balls, but two deliveries later attempted to sweep Peter Such, the off-spinner, and was leg-before.

By that stage, though, Cowdry, who began quietly, was into his stride. He rattled along to 80 from 79 deliveries, hitting nine fours and a six off Such into the pavilion, before he skied the penultimate ball of the innings to Law.

Irani, who had been out for 10, was the only other batsman to reach 50, and he did so off 100 balls.

The last four wickets fell in 10 balls, with the last two being taken by Cowdry, who finished on 100 not out.

TABLE

	P	W	L	T	NR	PR	RR
Warwickshire (4)	14.10	4.0	0	40	11.91		
Kent (10)	13.9	3.0	3	38	7.16		
Essex (9)	13.8	3.1	1	36	7.00		
Gloucestershire (12)	13.8	4.1	1	36	4.71		
Leicestershire (10)	13.7	1.0	1	34	5.00		
Worcestershire (8)	13.7	4.1	1	32	8.02		
Glamorgan (6)	13.7	4.0	2	32	8.00		
Nottinghamshire (16)	13.7	5.0	1	32	4.10		
Yorkshire (3)	13.7	5.1	0	32	6.51		
Sussex (5)	13.7	5.0	1	32	4.10		
Notts (2)	13.6	6.0	0	26	4.40		
Gloucestershire (15)	13.6	5.0	2	32	5.25		
Derbyshire (11)	13.3	8.0	2	16	5.27		
Durham (18)	13.3	10.0	0	12	10.34		
Middlesex (7)	13.2	9.1	1	12	9.23		
Sussex (14)	14.2	11.0	1	10	10.20		

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RACING: MONAASSIB FINISHES CLOSE SECOND IN PRIX MAURICE DE GHEEST AT NORMANDY TRACK

Deauville delights to quicken the tempo

By CHRIS MCGRATH

ONE mournful look at your lawn might explain why, after Goodwood, the Turf always takes a fortnight's refuge in the shadows. But this pronounced loss of tempo, at the heart of the racing calendar, instead reflects deep-rooted social rhythms — or, from the point of view of grouse, distinctly anti-social rhythms.

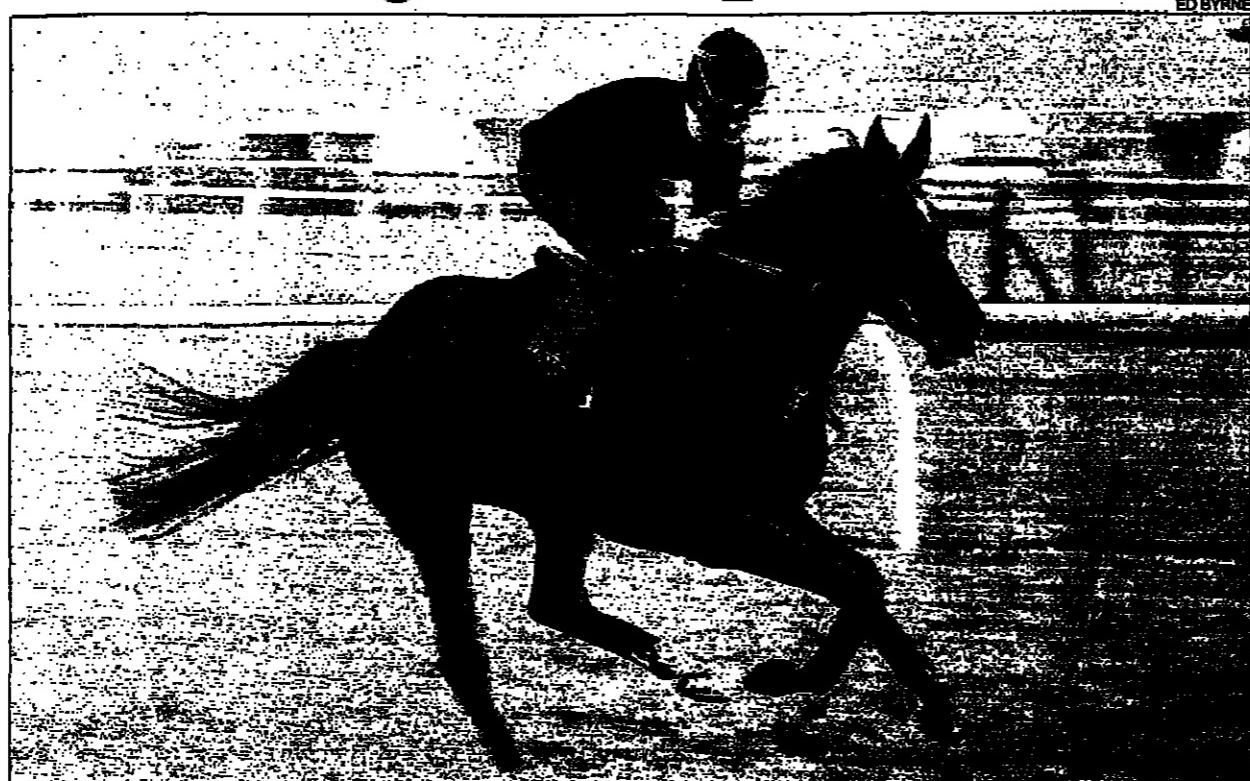
Likewise the fact that the next big meetings are both in

DEAUVILLE RESULT

PRIX MAURICE DE GHEEST (Group 1, 52x 1 1/2, 61/10y)

Going: good

1. Occupandiste (D. Dolcet), 2. Monaassib (D. D'Onghena), 3. Titus Ulysse (C. Asmussen), ALSO RAN: Nahas (4th); D'Amico (5th); Nomore Premier (6th); "I-Me" Cheetah at Chantilly; Par-Kamel (7th); Mr. Baker (8th); 1-60, 1-30, 1-10 DF (15-50); 1m 16.7s



Fallon puts Reams Of Verse through her paces at Newmarket before she heads for the York Ebor meeting

the north, at York and Doncaster. For Goodwood originally marked the end of the London 'season', and lay handy for Cowes: the Ebor and St Leger fixtures then provided convenient respite from the feathered slaughter that starts on the moors tomorrow.

But there are exceptions to the torpor infecting the sport. The French circuit's August retreat to Deauville provides an elegant stage, if not a catwalk, for cross-Channel raiders — such as Monaassib.

whose Prix Maurice de Gheest challenge yesterday was resisted only by Occupandiste. The winner made all, clinging on by half a length, but Ed Dunlop declared himself delighted by Monaassib's effort on ground softer than ideal. He will now train him for the Haydock Sprint Cup.

Next Sunday provides the highlight of Deauville's month, the Prix Jacques Le Marois, where Starborough, a plucky second to Ali-Royal, in the Sussex Stakes, is expected to put up an even better show. "He was a bit ring-rusty at Goodwood, and the race seems to have sharpened him

up," David Loder, his trainer, said yesterday.

Loder does not accept the theory that Starborough set up his own defeat by going off too fast, observing that he sustained his gallop to the line; he instead believes that the course was too sharp. Either way, the straight mile at

Deauville may not be ideal for Starborough either, as Loder believed him to improve on his 2,000 Guineas fourth when able to race round a bend at Chantilly and Ascot.

Also hard at labour are those required to be on their mettle for York, like Bosra Sham and Benny The Dip, who clash in the Juddmonte International tomorrow week.

Bosra Sham impressed as usual in her work on Saturday, while the Derby winner also seemed to be prospering under Frankie Dettori (set to regain the ride if Godolphin does not have a runner).

Perhaps the most intriguing gallop, however, saw another Epsom classic winner, Reams Of Verse, showing plenty of dash for Kieren Fallon. One of three Juddmonte entries owned by Khaled Abdulla, its sponsor, she would almost certainly give him the best chance of winning his own race — and enhance its championship status regardless.

But Henry Cecil, who trains both Bosra Sham and Reams Of Verse, is clearly doing his best to discourage the prince from pitting the Warren Place fillies against each other, even though they are in different ownership. "She'd be better off going to the Yorkshire Oaks than taking on Bosra Sham in flying form," he said pointedly.

Reams Of Verse won the Musidora Stakes, over the Juddmonte course and distance, by 11 lengths. She'll be owner overrule his trainer, the Knavestein could provide Fallon, the stable jockey, with a delicious opportunity to beat Bosra Sham. Fallon lost the ride on Cecil's most treasured charge after she was beaten at Sandown last month.

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Vaulting ambition offers route to all-round success

By JOHN GOODBOY



FEW sports have been so shambolically ignored in many British schools as gymnastics. During the 1930s, apparatus was actually destroyed by officials of the London County Council in the misguided belief that the movements required on equipment such as the rings, high bar, parallel pommel horse and parallel bars might make the children "muscle bound".

Its associations with Germany have not helped. Two world wars did not end German activities to the British public and much of gymnastic development derived from the work of Johann Friedrich Jahn in the 19th century. The word "gymnastum" also means, in German, a secondary or grammar school.

If, therefore, no wonder that Great Britain has not won an Olympic medal in the sport since 1928. However, even worse has been the failure of many schools to use the movement of gymnastics as a basis of physical education. The qualities acquired through training can easily be transferred to so many other activities.

Things are different at All Hallows, Somerset. Here, the dedicated and enlightened attitude of Muriel Thompson has not only helped the preparation school to victory this year in the national under-13 team championships, but has also provided the basis for success in other sports.

As Thompson said: "Gymnastics is so important for children. Unlike other physical abilities, such as strength, stamina and skill, you cannot acquire agility and suppleness so well when you are older."

By teaching youngsters to turn, twist in the air and somersault, their ability in other sports is immediately enhanced. This training is not something that they can achieve nearly so readily later in life.

Chris Bird, the headmaster and former centre "three-quarters" for Bath and Somerset said: "In rugby, we do not often have many boys of huge size and strength, so we concentrate on producing balanced runners who have a

good base. Gymnastics is so important for children. Unlike other physical abilities, such as strength, stamina and skill, you cannot acquire agility and suppleness so well when you are older."

He also plays in the centre for the school rugby union team and finds that, when he takes a tackle, his gymnastics training is of great value. "You are so used to falling and have learned to roll. It simply does not hurt as much when you hit the ground," he said.

Thompson is convinced of the value of gymnastics training. "You can see how much it helps children in both their confidence and body movements," she said. "Gymnastics training should be on the curriculum of every school."



Gaining confidence on the bar is an early requirement for young gymnasts

KICK OFF

Play ITF. Enter your fantasy team for your chance to win £50,000. See tomorrow's Times for details.

Haydock Park

Going cold to the touch. 2, Cane Chilli 11-2; Silverwing Princess (18-2); Italian Rose (4); D'Mart 5-2 rev. 7 min. 140, nk. R Heron 100, 55-70, 22-60, 55-30, DP 24-10, 22-10.

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AUSTRALIAN RULES

BASEBALL
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Friday, Chicago Cubs 3 San Diego 1. Cincinnati 5 Los Angeles 1. Milwaukee 1. San Francisco 4. Atlanta 4. Florida 1. San Francisco 1. Houston 1. St. Louis 5. Philadelphia 1. Dallas 5. Pittsburgh 3. Saturday, Atlanta 7. Colorado 6. Chicago Cubs 5. San Diego 7. Angels 6. New York 3. Houston 5. Montreal 2. San Francisco 1. St. Louis 2. Philadelphia 3.

BASKETBALL
AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Carlton 14.33. Brabourne 13.12. (61). Western Bulldogs 14.11. (59). Melbourne 9.10. (64). West Coast 13.10. (58). Fremantle 12.13. (51). Richmond 5.12. (49). St. Kilda 15.120. (129). Sydney 17.12. (11). Essendon 11.7. (73) vs Geelong. Victoria 14.11. (63) vs Port Adelaide 9.4. (58).

Law Report August 11 1997 Court of Appeal

Names who reject Lloyd's renewal plan still liable for premiums

Society of Lloyd's v Lyon Same v Leights Same v Wilkinson

Before Lord Justice Saville, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Phillips
(Judgment July 31)

Lloyd's names who rejected the reconstruction and renewal plan by Lloyd's for the voluntary global settlement of claims in respect of business written in or before 1992 were, nevertheless, liable to pay premiums pursuant to a reinsurance and run-off contract concluded as part of that plan.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeals of the defendant names: *Crossman Lyons, Dennis Leights and David Wilkinson* against decisions of Mr Justice Colman in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division on February 29 and April 24 giving summary judgement for the plaintiffs, the Society of Lloyd's and declaring that the names were liable to pay premiums pursuant to a reinsurance and run-off contract concluded as part of the society's reconstruction and renewal plan which the names had rejected.

215 Canadian names, who had also rejected the plan, intervened in the actions, which were test cases.

Mr Simon Goldblatt, QC and Mr Vincent Dennis, QC, Mr Richard Jacobs and Mr David Foxton for Lloyd's; Mr Alan Lenczner, QC of the Ontario Bar, and Mr Craig Orr for the Canadian names.

LORD JUSTICE SAVILLE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appeals raised fundamental questions as to the efficacy of the complex scheme under which the Society of Lloyd's

had set out to resolve the avalanche of litigation that had been threatening to destroy the Lloyd's market and many who traded in it.

That scheme, the reconstruction and renewal plan, involved a voluntary global settlement of claims of various descriptions made by and against names in respect of business written in or before 1992 coupled with a reinsurance and run-off contract, in the nature of a global reinsurance to close, with a group of companies formed specifically for that purpose the Equitas contract.

Pursuant to that power, the council made Bylaw No 20 of 1993, empowering the council to appoint a substitute agent to take over the whole or any part of a member's underwriting business and to give directions to both the substitute agent and the member in relation to the underwriting business taken over.

Pursuant to that bylaw, on September 3, 1993, the council appointed a substitute agent, AUA 9, a company owned and indirectly controlled by Lloyd's, to take over all non-life business written in or before 1992 for all names.

AUA 9 was directed to give effect to the reconstruction and renewal plan. Provision for that plan had been made by Bylaw No 22 of 1993. More particularly, AUA 9 was directed to enter into the reinsurance and run-off contract with Equitas on behalf of each name that AUA 9 had purported to do.

The defendants had mounted three challenges to the scheme, each of which they contended provided an independent defence to the society's claim.

1 The scope of the venture

The names contended that the scheme offended against a fundamental principle of underwriting at Lloyd's, which was that it should be carried on without mutualisation.

Broadly, the point made was that the Equitas contract involved the pooling of reserves held by or on behalf of individual names to meet their individual liabilities, and of premiums levied on individual names, and the use of the pool.

When they might arise. Each Lloyd's year was, in a sense, an annual venture, but a year's accounts were only calculated at the end of the third year, when claims, or the possibility of claims were likely to exist.

To achieve finality at the end of each three-year period, normal practice was for names to pay a premium to another syndicate to take over outstanding rights and liabilities: reinsurance to close ("RTC"). Years which were not closed, or had no RTC, stayed open years and a creditor of a deceased person, in priority to whose debt a legacy had been paid to his detriment, could make the executor personally liable for his loss.

Mr Clarke, another name and the representative creditor, had RTC for one of his own years from a syndicate of which Mr Yorke, whose estate now enjoyed reinsurance from Equitas, which gained final authorisation from the Department of Trade and Industry in September 1996, had been a member.

Should Equitas fail, liability would revert to the relevant names in which event a number of remedies or palliatives might suffice to head off claims by policy holders, including the implementation of a proportionate cover plan; the proposal of a scheme under section 425 of the Companies Act 1985 and resource by policy holders to deposit required by regulatory authorities in other jurisdictions.

Beyond those, there would be strong pressure on Lloyd's to inject funds into Equitas to ensure that its obligations were met.

Mr Yorke's last year of account had been 1990. His outstanding

open years were 1985 (one syndicate), 1989 (two) and 1990 (21). Calls of over £675,000 on those had been paid in full, save that one, the largest, had been reimbursed into Equitas.

There was unchallenged evidence that the executors were only liable to face liabilities in the event of Equitas' total failure.

Must they retain enough, indefinitely, to meet some theoretical, possibly, maximum total liability (surely, unfair to beneficiaries)? Or could they now distribute, on the basis that creditors' protection via Equitas was commercially appropriate?

His Lordship reviewed the relevant provisions of the Insurance Companies Act 1982, summarised Equitas' reports and accounts up to September 4, 1996, disclosing £0.8 billion of claims reserves and a surplus of assets over liabilities of £588 million after prudent provision, outlined reservations expressed therein by Coopers & Lybrand, and recorded unchallenged evidence from an eminent accountant to the effect that it was to be inferred that they "did not consider that there was a significant level of concern about Equitas' ability, in the foreseeable future, to continue as a going concern".

He continued that the law concerning executors' duty to retain funds against contingent liabilities had often been criticised by policy holders to deposit required by regulatory authorities in other jurisdictions.

In summary, the position was as follows:

1 Distribution pursuant to a court order afforded complete protection.
2 The court would enable personal representatives to set apart a reasonable sum to cover any

liability which might in any reasonable probability arise by reason of a future breach of covenants in a lease held by the deceased: *Dobson v Carpenter* (1850) 12 Beav 730.

3 If the possibility of some contingent debt maturing came to an executor's notice, he could retain an appropriate sum (a) pursuant to the court's direction, gaining immunity from devastation, or (b) otherwise, whether out of the estate or by way of security from a beneficiary, but gaining no immunity.

Applying those principles, there was good reason for the court, on the facts of Mr Yorke's case, to sanction distribution to legatees without the executors requiring any retention by them of assets or a surplus over liabilities over £588 million after prudent provision, outlined reservations expressed therein by Coopers & Lybrand, and recorded unchallenged evidence from an eminent accountant to the effect that it was to be inferred that they "did not consider that there was a significant level of concern about Equitas' ability, in the foreseeable future, to continue as a going concern".

However, although his Lordship would have wished to proffer guidance of such a nature as to obviate the costs and delay of applications to court in other estates' executors, and although such executors could reasonably choose to rely on Equitas alone, it could not be wrong for them to insist upon the court's protection before distributing any vulnerable name's estate.

Mr Yorke's last year of account had been 1990. His outstanding

to discharge the liabilities of all the names.

At the end of the day a surplus might be shared out among the names, or some names might and themselves under residual liability to policy holders, but in neither case would the end result reflect each name's individual liability to policy holders in respect of the business written on behalf of each name. That, it was contended, offended against the prohibition on mutualisation enshrined in section 8(1) of the Lloyd's Act 1982.

However, section 8(1) was directed solely to the writing of insurance business at Lloyd's, not to contracts which the names might conclude thereafter which were ancillary to such business.

The Equitas contract was such a contract. It had been concluded to make provision for the discharge of the insurance liabilities undertaken by names in and before 1992 in due conformity with the requirements of section 8(1).

The Equitas scheme did not derive from the principle that every name concerned directly liable to policy holders in respect of the business written by that name and in respect of that business alone.

Their Lordships could not see that agreements or arrangements which involved names in making mutual provision against the risk of individual default were in conflict with or outside the scope of the venture of an insurance business in which each name accepted liability solely for his own account.

Reconstruction and renewal, and in particular the Equitas scheme, was not simply designed to provide cover against the risk of individual defaults. It had a much more fundamental object to settle intractable litigation and to avoid the need to put the whole of Lloyd's into run-off.

If recession were to have the effect contended for by the names it

would prejudice third parties. It was not merely the fact that third parties would be adversely affected but the manner in which that would come about that could not be reconciled with the principles governing reinsurance.

The names contended that the effect of rescission was to withdraw, retroactively, the authority of AUA 9 to contract for the names.

Their Lordships were in no doubt that Bylaw 22 of 1995 fell fairly and squarely within the society's powers and that the directions given to implement it were validly given.

2 Rescission

The names alleged that they had been induced to join Lloyd's by misrepresentations fraudulently made by the society. The society challenged that allegation, but accepted that its claim to summary judgment had to be advanced on the premise that the allegation of fraud was valid.

Their Lordships knew of no case where rescission had invalidated a contract with a third party in that way and they did not believe that such a result could be accommodated within established legal principles.

There was a more general and equally fundamental reason why it was not open to names to rescind their general undertakings.

Membership of Lloyd's was the foundation of the insurance business that had been carried on by names and must necessarily be maintained by them until all their liabilities to policy holders were discharged.

Membership of Lloyd's was essential if the names were not to infringe the provisions of section 20 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982. Those forbade unauthorised persons to carry on insurance business in the United Kingdom.

Authorisation had only been granted to individuals who were members of Lloyd's. In practice, the names had only been able to conduct insurance business and would only be able to run-off that business by taking advantage of the complex structure of the Lloyd's market which enabled policy holders to transact business with it as a corporate entity rather than with a large number of

individuals.

The rules and regulations of Lloyd's had enabled that business to be transacted on behalf of and with the authority of the names. It was hard to see how it could be argued that the scheme had not been "requisite or expedient to the proper and better execution of the objects of the Society".

Their Lordships were in no doubt that Bylaw 22 of 1995 fell fairly and squarely within the society's powers and that the directions given to implement it were validly given.

3 Set-off etc

The names claimed that they had rescinded the contract under which they entered into the general undertaking. The society contended that rescission was not possible and that the only remedy open to the names was to claim damages for deceit.

Some of the names who relied on rescission had purported to rescind their membership of the society after the Equitas contract was concluded, others had purposed to do so before.

The act of rescission avoided the contract retroactively ab initio and could only take place provided that it was possible to restore the parties to substantially the same position that they were in before the contract was concluded and that rescission would not harm the rights of third parties.

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Their Lordships were in no doubt that Bylaw 22 of 1995 fell fairly and squarely within the society's powers and that the directions given to implement it were validly given.

4 Summary

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Their Lordships were in no doubt that Bylaw 22 of 1995 fell fairly and squarely within the society's powers and that the directions given to implement it were validly given.

5 Clause 5.5 of the Equitas contract

provided that each name should pay his premium "free and clear from any set-off, counter-claim or other deduction ... in respect of any claim against ... Lloyd's or any other person whatsover."

Their Lordships knew of no case in law to which the defendants and those in their position, was that the appeal must be dismissed.

Solicitors: Epstein Grover & Michael Freeman; Freshfields; Warner Cranston.

Individuals.
The question was whether that had the effect of preventing the non-accepting names from resisting payment to the society, as assignee, of the premium due from them, on the ground that, on the assumption made, the society was liable to them in damages for fraud.

It was "absolutely clear" that clause 5.5 did operate so as to prevent the non-accepting names from raising claims against the society in answer to a claim by the society, as assignee, for the name's premium.

The fact that the claims of the non-accepting names against the society were in fraud did not assist the society. Given the all-embracing language used in the clause, the fact that, to all intents and purposes, the only claims of any relevance against the society by names that could fall outside the statutory immunity in section 14 of the Lloyd's Act 1982, would be claims of acting in bad faith, and the fact that allegations of bad faith were being made by names before and at the time the agreement was made, everything had to lead to the conclusion that the clause was intended to cover such claims.

Their Lordships did not seek to exclude or limit liability for fraud. Their Lordships knew of no principle of law that should lead one to construe the words of the clause so as to exclude from its ambit any claim based or allegedly based on fraud.

The result, which would come as a bitter blow to the defendants and those in their position, was that the appeal must be dismissed.

Lord Justice ROCH said that under the local authority's disciplinary procedure the employee could be transferred from Hanley to Stafford, from the judgment of Mr Recorder Phillips, so held on July 7, allowing an appeal by the employee. Mr Peter Hallstones, from the judgment of Mr Recorder Phillips, QC, given on September 10, 1996, that Hanley and Stafford County Council were entitled to require the employee to continue to work at the place to which he was transferred without imposing any extra expense.

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Lord Justice ROCH said that there was no authority which dealt with the considerations which a court should have in mind when deciding whether and how to exercise the powers conferred by section 40 of the 1991 Act.

In then considering whether to re-activate that sentence, the court should have regard to any progress made by the defendant since his release on licence, the interval between release and the commission of the new offence, the gravity of the new offence and the totality of the two sentences.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment when reducing from one year and nine days to six months the sentence on Adrian Edward Taylor, imposed at Chelmsford

have regard to the nature and extent of any progress made by the defendant since his release on licence, and the nature and gravity of the new offence and whether it called for a custodial sentence.

Mr Benjamin Squirell, as signed by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that there was no authority which dealt with the considerations which a court should have in mind when deciding whether and how to exercise the powers conferred by section 40 of the 1991 Act.

In then considering whether to re-activate that sentence, the court should have regard to any progress made by the defendant since his release on licence, the interval between release and the commission of the new offence, the gravity of the new offence and the totality of the two sentences.

In then considering whether an order for return should be made, it would usually be appropriate to

have regard to totality, both in determining whether a return to prison should be ordered and whether such period of return should be served before or concurrently with the sentence for the new offence, and in determining how long the return term should be.

Furthermore, the court was not precluded from having regard to the length of the interval between release and commission of the new offence, although the maximum period of possible return was necessarily reduced by that interval.

Applying these considerations, the appellant's overall sentence was excessive and so the length of the return term would be reduced.

On the facts of this case, the court should have regard to the interval between release and commission of the new offence, the gravity of the new offence and the totality of the two sentences.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Kode International. Finals: none scheduled. Economic statistics: July producer prices, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: BOC (q3), Colt Telecom Group (q3), EasyNet Group, Epwin Group, General Accident, Glynwedd International, Holliday Chemical, Morgan Sindall, Sedgwick Group, Smith & Nephew. Finals: VDC, Economic statistics: BRC July retail sales survey, July retail prices Index.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: BICC, Flying Flowers General Consolidated, Independent Insurance Group, Life Offices Opportunities Trust, Millennium Coopthorne, Rosebys, Final: Games Workshop Group, Economic statistics: July jobless figures, June average earnings, minutes of July Bank of England monetary policy meeting, Bank of England quarterly Inflation Report.

THURSDAY

Interims: Freepages Group (q3), Henson (q3), MAID, Micro Focus Group, Orange, WPP Group, XenoGo Group. Finals: Kleinwort High Income, Media Business Group, Economic statistics: None scheduled for release in UK, US Treasury auction of 52-week T-bills.

FRIDAY

Interims: Alliance & Leicester, Crown Glasses, Flextech, LIX Oil & Gas, Johnson Group Cleaners, Finals: none scheduled. Economic statistics: None scheduled for release in UK.

TOURIST RATES

Bank Buys Bank Sales

Australia \$	2.26	2.09
Austria Sch	21.56	19.90
Bulgaria L	0.54	0.53
Canada \$	2.316	2.130
Cyprius Cyp	0.903	0.831
Denmark Kr	11.71	10.82
Finland Fim	0.92	0.84
France Fr	10.32	9.54
Greece Dr	3.08	2.84
Hong Kong \$	13.04	11.00
Iceland I	1.27	1.07
Ireland Pt	1.15	1.08
Iraq Dkr	5.57	5.25
Italy Lira	3229	2792
Japan Yen	166.63	182.10
Malta	0.988	0.869
Netherlands Gld	3.485	3.186
New Zealand \$	2.24	2.40
Norway Kr	12.60	11.68
Portugal Esc	308.03	286.00
Spain Pta	17.03	17.13
Sweden Kr	257.79	268.00
Switzerland Fr	13.26	12.32
Turkey Lira	297.00	247.00
USA	1.485	1.540

Rates for small denomination bank notes only are supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveler's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

COMPANIES

Orange likely to ring up lower losses

ORANGE GROUP: Britain's fastest growing mobile phone operator reports half-year figures on Thursday that will show the progress it is making in reducing its start-up losses.

In the same period last year, Orange made net losses (it does not yet pay tax) of £125 million, or 10.4p a share, before notching up a deficit for the year of £229 million. This time round, estimates range from £73 million to £103 million. Analysts said attention will focus on the impact of changes made earlier this year to the incoming interconnect rate charged when calls are made to Orange phones from BT.

John Jensen, at Salmon Brothers, says the group is unlikely to turn in a profit until next year at the earliest and, more likely, 1999. Orange is certainly moving towards the black, but it is a slow process.

It is now the third largest cellular network operator, with 980,000 subscribers at the last count in June. But it remains way behind Vodafone, with 2.92 million subscribers, and Cellnet, with 2.76 million.

Its network now covers 92 per cent of the country and it is the aim of Hans Snook, managing director, to extend this to 96 per cent by the year end. Hutchison Whampoa remains its biggest shareholder, with almost 50 per cent, while British Aerospace continues to hold 22 per cent.

BOC GROUP: The shares ended the week on a high note after the admission from Zeneca that it is interested in buying Ormeda, the group's healthcare business, which could fetch £1 billion.

But third-quarter figures tomorrow are likely to reveal the scars of unfavourable currency movements. Pre-tax profits are expected to be marginally ahead at £112 million, compared with £109 million last time.

NatWest Securities says that underlying volume growth in gases is expected to have continued at a reasonable rate — a point reinforced by recent reports from other US and European gas producers.

Order books at Edwards, the vacuum business, are showing signs of revival and the news should be fairly bullish. The performance of the distribution division is likely to reflect a buoyant economy, with Marks & Spencer recently announcing the

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Currency fallout

Financial markets on both sides of the Atlantic will be dominated in the early part of the week by the sudden reversal of speculative currency trends. On Friday, this undermined dollar securities. So today's auction of short-term US bills will be watched more closely than usual. The dollar's sudden retreat, if sustained, will take pressure off the Bundesbank, whose chief economist has voiced worries over rising inflation and the mark. Even so, eyes will be on German retail and wholesale price data due this week. The median market forecast puts the cost of living up 0.5 per cent, raising annual inflation from 1.7 to 1.9 per cent.

In the UK, the statistical emphasis is also on inflation, but the sing appears to have been taken out of the Bank of England's *Inflation Report*, to be published during Wednesday, by the statement that the new 7 per cent base rate is reckoned enough to keep inflation on target.

Sales are expected to decline by 4 per cent to £520 million after the effects of currency translations and this, combined with price deflation, should also have denting operating margins from 17.5 per cent to 16.1 per cent.

Now all hopes are pinned on the launch of Dermagraft, the artificial skin graft process, next year. But brokers say that without a recovery in its main markets, any useful contribution from Dermagraft cannot be sustained. Despite the group's problems, the market is still looking for an increase in the interim dividend from 2.3p to 2.4p.

HANSON: The group is a pale shadow of its former self, after the various demergers, and is now a focused building materials business. Third-quarter figures until the end of June, will be announced on Thursday, but the emphasis will be on the first six months. The figures are likely to prove hard to interpret as there will be no comparisons. A pre-tax profit of around £100 million, producing earnings of 15p, is expected. The payout has been pencilled in at 14p.

GENERAL ACCIDENT: Mild weather and healthy growth in life profits should enable the group to post a favourable set of interim figures tomorrow. Pre-tax profit expectations range from £420 million to £620 million. London Brick continues to hold 40 per cent of the market, but high stock levels mean it has been unable to force through price rises. Cornerstone in the US is likely to have enjoyed a solid performance, producing a like-for-like profit increase in the region of 5 per cent.

The Observer: Buy. **Unilever:** The *Sunday Times*: Buy. **Celtic:** Oriental Restaurant Group, Rolls-Royce. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy. **Tinsley Robot:** Firth Rixson, Hazlewood Foods. **The Mail on Sunday:** Buy. **Whitbread:** Sell. **NatWest:** The *Independent on Sunday*: Buy. **Field Group:** The *Express on Sunday*: Buy. **Northern Leisure:** Sparx-Sarco, Black Arrow.



Hans Snook wants 96 per cent countrywide coverage for Orange by the end of the year

expansion of its food retail operation.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER: Like the Woolwich, its recently converted rival, this newcomer to the banking sector is likely to offer only modest underlying growth when it reports on Friday.

Interim pre-tax profits are expected to be in the region of £158.5 million after exceptional conversion of its half-year figures, due out on Wednesday, some time ago. Henderson Crosthwaite was one such broker, reducing its pre-tax profit figure by 10 per cent from £162.7 million to £157.7 million.

At the time of the annual meeting in May, BICC reported that purchases by ENEL, the Italian state-controlled electricity company, were 30 per cent down on the previous year. This would result in something like a £10 million loss.

Credit Lyonnais Laing forecasts earnings per share of 16.2p, with a maiden interim dividend of 6.3p, one third of that for the year. With surplus capital of £725 million, the Alliance & Leicester is expected to use some of it for

acquisitions, with a further portion earmarked for a special dividend. CLL estimates that if half the surplus cash is returned to shareholders the payout could be worth 62p a share.

BICC: Losses at Ceat Cavi, its Italian cables subsidiary, prompted brokers to downgrade their half-year figures, due out on Wednesday, some time ago. Henderson Crosthwaite was one such broker, reducing its pre-tax profit figure by 10 per cent from £162.7 million to £157.7 million.

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Credit Lyonnais Laing's David Hudson coming out towards the top of the range with £257 million. That compares with the outcome of £194 million last time. The lower level of weather related claims is in stark

GENERAL ACCIDENT

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Teknik subsidiary. Vickers

identifies potential buyers

for the remaining businesses

in time for its interim results

next month.

To maximise the value of the

division, Vickers is thought like-

ly to sell the businesses individ-

ually. The operations up for sale

include incubators, neurological

diagnostics and equipment

distribution, and should fetch

more than £90 million.

Anticipation that Vickers

would sell the rest of its

medical operations have ful-

filled hopes for a merger with

British Aerospace. But both

companies yesterday denied

anything was on the table. A

link would make sense

through combining Vickers'

armoured tanks and cars to

BAe's defence capabilities.

A potential buyer for

Vickers' medical businesses is

Smiths Industries, which last

week spent £136 million on

Grasby, the medical devices

and monitoring company.

Vickers' sale plan fuels talk of merger

VICKERS: the engineering

group, will streamline its busi-

ness over the next few weeks

by offloading its medical arm

(Christine Buckley writes).

The company, which makes

armoured tanks and cars to

BAe's defence capabilities.

A potential buyer for

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week spent £136 million on

Grasby, the medical devices

and monitoring company.

B&Q expands

its

presence

in

Far

East

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar

1.5787 (-0.0580)

German mark

2.9249 (-0.1136)

Exchange index

101.3 (-4.0)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share

3216.3 (+124.1)

FTSE 100

5031.3 (+132.0)

New York Dow Jones

8031.22 (-162.82)

Tokyo Nikkei Avge

19604.46 (-199.92)

Keep our opinions
to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy a leisurely copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy like it home and keep it to yourself.

Currency fallout

Asset prices in Britain have been rising fast. The Footsie index of share prices is now showing an increase over the last year of 33 per cent. In the US it is the same story — even after Friday's wobbles. Moreover, this continues an established trend. Over the past five years, the Footsie has risen by some 115 per cent, and the Dow Jones index has risen by 145 per cent. Yet in both countries, the cumulative increase in the level of consumer prices over the same period has been about 14 per cent. Can this divergence persist? How can inflation be dead for goods and services when it seems to be alive and well for assets?

The answer to this question divides the inflation pessimists from the inflation optimists. The pessimists see the inflation of asset prices as the harbinger of more general inflation yet to come. Surging asset prices reflect loose monetary policy. People find it too cheap and easy to borrow and they have money burning a hole in their pockets. They spend it on just about anything they can. Asset markets are more sensitive to this imbalance in supply and demand so their prices rise first, but it is only a matter of time before the prices of goods and services react as well.

For both the US and Britain, there are serious problems with this interpretation, not least the poor performance of small stocks. Moreover, if

Inflation alive and well in Footsie?



ROGER BOOTLE

the pessimists were right, you might expect to see some signs of rising inflation in the pipeline. But in both countries the prices of goods leaving the factories are more or less static, while input costs are falling sharply and wages are rising only modestly.

The pessimists try to explain this by reference to the fact that both Britain and the US have strong currencies. Yet this merely poses another conundrum. In the classic monetary inflation, when people seek to reduce their money holdings, they also buy foreign assets, thereby putting downward pressure on the exchange rate. But in both the US and Britain exactly the opposite has been happening. Far from money flooding out, it has been sucked in.

The implication is that the sharp rise in the price of assets has its causes in the world of portfolios, far removed from the high street or factory. On one view, it is merely a classic speculative bubble, inflated by the growth of mutual funds in the US, but bound to burst at some time. On another, it is justified by the transformation of the modern economy. The

market comes to realise that the world has changed, then there is a period of sharp asset price inflation. Once the new environment has been fully reflected in asset prices, then they should again rise at only a sedate pace, though still faster than consumer prices. But until this point is reached, low goods price inflation and high asset price inflation are two sides of the same coin. Higher productivity growth justifies higher asset prices but it also makes it possible for demand to grow faster without causing inflation.

Yet the pessimists have another argument. Even if booming asset prices are not themselves the result of inflationary pressure in the economy, they may cause it. Asset prices may have risen to reflect increased productive power in the future, but there is still a limit to how much the economy can produce now. If consumers react by trying to spend a significant part of their increased wealth soon then the economy will quickly be up against the buffers. So surges of asset prices are again a precursor of pick-ups in goods inflation.

But the evidence is that people are not

particularly sensitive to stock market wealth, not least because much of it is held by long-term investing institutions. Moreover, recent surges in share prices have coincided with — and some people would say have even been caused by — a structural change with regard to savings. The ageing of the populations in the major industrial countries is creating increased savings as people try to accumulate enough assets to fund their retirement, egged on by the prospect of cutbacks in the welfare state and increased job insecurity. This is not the stuff of which inflationary spending sprees are made.

So the conclusion is that there is nothing necessarily incompatible about prices in the shops remaining fairly static while asset prices soar — for a while. In that span of time so beloved by economists — the long-run — the two will have to come much closer together, but the long run may be a long time in the coming. And if, as I believe, the optimists are right, then the convergence between the price trends of goods and assets will come, not from the rate of goods price inflation moving up to meet and even take assets, but rather from asset price inflation slowing down to meet, or even fall below, the still low rate of goods inflation. The current sharp rise in asset prices is the sort of inflation you can sit back and enjoy — while it lasts.

Psion fails to meet demand

By FRASER NELSON

PSION, the palm-top computer company, has run out of its latest Series 5 model and is unable to supply electrical retailers who want to put the £499 machine on their shelves.

Production problems have added to Psion's difficulties in meeting higher than expected demand for the computer, which is the long-awaited successor to its popular Series 3 electronic organiser.

Salesmen at Psion's custom-

er service department are warning customers that any attempt to hunt a Series 5 down in the shops will prove futile. Retailers are telling those wanting to buy the Series 5 that there is a three-week waiting list.

A Currys spokeswoman said: "We had great difficulties meeting demand with the new organiser, and the level of demand has been huge."

The Series 5 has received

some extremely good reviews. However, instead of strength-

ening the company, its introduction has hit short-term trading. While Psion is losing out from being unable to supply sufficient numbers of the new computer, its introduction has also hit sales of the Series 3. The company's shares have lost 43 per cent of their value since it gave warning of the slowing of sales of the old model in June.

Nicholas Myres, Psion's managing director, said the company had hit "tiny wincy production problems". He

added: "We are going to produce 40,000 of these units and that level of production is not something you can do in a month — it's going to take three or four months to get up to full speed. Yes, we are a little bit behind the plan and demand is much higher than we would have expected. We have been held up by some supply parts taking time to come through, but that's to be expected."

He conceded that the problems are likely to diminish the

overall turnover for the Series 5. "We may lose some sales, inevitably, because some people are impatient and will want to move on. But these are not products that are bought with rash judgment. Our research shows that people take about three months to decide to buy a Psion and a couple of weeks will not make much of a difference."

An eight mega-byte Series 5 will retail at £499, and the four mega-byte version will cost £440.

Cinven buys Macarthy

Cinven, the investment group, has bought the Macarthy Group, the pharmaceuticals business that was acquired by GEHE of Germany as part of its recent takeover of Lloyds Chemist. The deal values Macarthy at £55.5 million.

Tigerprint sold

Tigerprint, which supplies greeting cards and stationery to Marks & Spencer, has been sold to a management buyout by Reed Elsevier, the publishing group.

Aim for Style

Style Holdings, the firm behind the Envy menswear chain, will join AIM this month.



Stores such as the Grace Bros type are badly located

Department stores back in fashion

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DEPARTMENT stores have emerged from a period of deep unfashionability and are poised for a period of rapid sales growth and expansion, with 15 new stores expected to open over the next four years.

According to Verdict, the retail consultancy, total department stores' sales last year grew 5 per cent, to £7.6 billion. The leading companies' sales rose 6.6 per cent, well ahead of total retail growth of 5.3 per cent.

The stores can offer a range of branded merchandise and good service, which attracts affluent over-35s, today's report.

Many of the older stores — of

the Grace Bros type immortalised in *Are You Being Served?* — are poorly located, and some can be expected to close. Newer shopping malls are offering generous terms to draw in department stores, recognising that they are magnets to shoppers.

The John Lewis Partnership regained its market leadership from Debenhams last year because of strong like-for-like growth. Its share is now 20.8 per cent, up 1.5 per cent.

Debenhams' share crept 0.4

per cent higher, while Selfridges grew 4.6 per cent. House of Fraser's share fell 0.1 per cent to 12.4 per cent, while the Co-operative movement fell 1 per cent, to 11.5 per cent.

Halifax sues over poster campaign

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

HALIFAX, the nation's largest mortgage lender, is taking legal action against Portman Building Society for going a little extra bit too far in a poster advertising campaign.

The Portman, which has one million savers against its rival's 1.7 million, used an X which looked like the Halifax's stylised A in a campaign comparing its Instant Access Account, offering savers 5 per cent interest, with Halifax's Liquid Gold account, which paid only 2.75 per cent. "That little extra will do better at the Portman," ran the headline. Halifax has registered its X and the slogan "that little Xtra help" with the Registered Trade Mark Office.

The Halifax is demanding a promise from its competitor to never take its logo in vain again. It wants Portman to destroy or give it all the posters and has raised the issue of damages.

A bemused Portman spokesman said it had been a one-off campaign and most of the material would have been automatically disposed of already.

Portman also borrowed the "smarter investor" phrase from the Alliance & Leicester to compare its products.

INTERMEDIATE INVESTMENT MARKET									
1997 High	1997 Low	Mkt cap (£m)	Price per unit	Wkly %	YTD %	P/E	1997 High	1997 Low	Mkt cap (£m)
139	100	11.80 AFA Systems	115%	+ 2	5.5	10.2	159	72	6.38 Jadeview Int'l
153	100	15.50 AMCO Corp	105%	-	10.2	10.2	512	51.2	5.12 Jason
154	100	17.33 Amcor Recycl	105%	-	10.2	10.2	345	34.5	4.50 Kinetech Int'l
155	100	27.20 Access Plus	105%	-	10.2	10.2	41	4.1	3.19 J Lewis Hard
156	100	4.43 Active Imaging	105%	-	10.2	10.2	4	4.4	4.95 Just Group
157	100	2.00 Adcom	105%	-	10.2	10.2	105	10.5	2.45 Kinetech Int'l
158	100	7.72 Africa Gold	105%	-	10.2	10.2	50	5.0	5.65 Kinetech Int'l
159	100	33.00 Allectro	105%	-	10.2	10.2	175	17.5	17.03 Kinetech Int'l
160	100	12.10 Almond & Ed	105%	-	10.2	10.2	120	12.0	5.19 Lady in Leisure
161	100	2.88 Anglo-Wells	105%	+ 2	9.9	14.3	110	11.0	12.03 Kinetech Int'l
162	100	55.70 Ann St. Cray	105%	+ 2	9.9	14.3	110	11.0	12.03 Kinetech Int'l
163	100	10.20 Archetech	105%	+ 5	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
164	100	10.20 Archer Dedicated	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
165	100	10.20 Arco Prop	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
166	100	10.20 Artex	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
167	100	1.22 Astroline	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
168	100	12.00 Astrotech	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
169	100	12.00 AT&T	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
170	100	12.00 BATM Int'l Comms	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
171	100	2.57 Bayline Services	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
172	100	1.20 Bechtel	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
173	100	1.20 Belcan	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
174	100	1.20 Bell Atlantic	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
175	100	1.20 Bell South	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
176	100	1.20 Belden	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
177	100	1.20 Belden Inc	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
178	100	1.20 Belden Inc	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
179	100	1.20 Belden Inc	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
180	100	1.20 Belden Inc	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
181	100	1.20 Belden Inc	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
182	100	1.20 Belden Inc	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
183	100	1.20 Belden Inc	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	10.50 Kinetech Int'l
184	100	1.20 Belden Inc	105%	-	2.5	47.8	105	10.5	



Too many voices to make a coherent case

If you could keep your head while all around last night's *Omnibus* (BBC1) was getting under way... well, you're a better man than I am. Gunga Din. Rarely has total confusion set in quite so quickly.

We began simply enough with a strangely handsome man driving through Sussex listening to a radio programme about Kipling. As the title of Nadia Haigare's film was *If: A Film About Rudyard Kipling*, this seemed a reasonable device. So far, so good.

Then the strangely handsome man, who had not yet been introduced, started to add his own thoughts about Kipling — you could tell they were thoughts because his lips didn't move while he said them. I was just about coping with two disembodied voices (one — the radio, two — handsome man's thoughts) when a third arrived.

This voice, which may have harboured aspirations to become the narrator, quoted Forster and Eliot in quick succession. Then we got to Baileman. Kipling's country seat, and a fourth voice started reading his letters. Then a fifth voice started talking through the Internet. And then... and then...

And then I woke up. And it was still going on. By now, at least, the strangely handsome man had introduced himself. He was Mace Richards, an actor who knew little about Kipling but chanted *If* to cheer himself up. He was regularly out of work, separated and didn't see enough of his children so probably knew it backwards by now.

Modestly, Richards had described himself as "not in the John Gielgud class" but, frankly, even Sir John would have struggled with this. Richards was effectively playing himself (ie, not acting) recreating for the cameras a voyage of personal and literary

discovery that I presume we were being asked to believe really had happened. "Clever, but was it art?", as a passing devil might have whooped.

Though I still wasn't convinced it was even clever, things did look up a bit when we got to John Clegg's one-man Kipling show. "Oh look, it's Mr. Larddy Gunner Graham from *If Ain't Half Hot, Mum!*" I shouted, my enthusiasm temporarily restored. But I had forgotten this was *Omnibus*, a serious arts programme where such low-brow interjections are not encouraged. It was on with the Kipling, until my attention wandered again: "Goodness, she's pretty."

Pretty and apparently crucial to the plot. This was Liz, who was not just pretty but a Kipling scholar to boot, boot, boot. Only she wasn't. She was Sarah Patterson, an actress who, for reasons that were

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

never explained, was playing the part of Liz. So to recap for dearly beloveds who may have lost the plot: we had Richards, an actor who was not acting, and Liz, the Kipling scholar who was not a Kipling scholar. Together, they were searching for *Mother Maturin* — a Kipling novel which the film took an inordinate time to admit had never been published and the manuscript of which had

mysteriously vanished. The hunt was on.

But again my attention wandered. You see, by the time our intrepid duo got to Ed Maggs, purveyor of old manuscripts, they were holding hands. Never mind whether Kipling had or had not had a relationship with a low-caste Indian teenager; this was far more interesting. And just as puzzling. They had already done a deal of gazing soulfully into each other's eyes, but I'd put this down to the fact that they were both actors. Something more was going on.

Was this a肥ful recreation of a literary liaison between Mace and Liz or a spot of actorly improvisation by Mace and Sarah? "Let's just try it and see how it feels?" We never found out, just as we never found out about *Mother Maturin*, although Richards, unlike Kipling, did provide a wistful hint. "I never saw her again, she vanished from my life." Goodness,

you don't think it was all an allegory, do you?

From the mystery of *Mother Maturin*, it was a short, thankfully conventional step to *Mother India* as *The Dynasty* (BBC2, Saturday) reached Indira Gandhi. What a treat this proved, a film that started at the beginning and continued through until... not quite the end. That's next week.

A congenial cast of colleagues, relatives and friends (but possibly not enough critics) had been assembled to guide us through the early brilliant years of her administration (when she profitably played the Americans off against the Soviets) to the later years when her reputation became tarnished by allegations of corruption and nepotism and eventually by electoral defeat. It was fascinating stuff, as much of the veritable sub-continent of programming scheduled to mark the 50th anni-

versary of independence has proved. I could have listened for a lot longer to Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, the man who could have led a coup against her but ended up leading the war against West Pakistan on her behalf.

If *The Dynasty* was one sort of time-warp television, *Working Out* (Channel 5) was quite another. It was as though the past ten years hadn't happened. There we were in a London gym, with all these heavily perspiring executives types apparently auditioning for a part in a new series of *Capital City*. It was a "dog eat dog" world, where you were "only as good as your last deal". Did they mean 1997? Apparently they did.

Aileen McCracken's film perhaps lacked the humour and insight to make it unmissable but in terms of capturing a *Zeigeist* we all thought had gone it was bang on. I mean, even the head chef had a history of heart palpitations.

BBC1

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (42633).
7.00 BBC *Breakfast News* (T) (65492).
9.00 *Breakfast News Extra* (T) (5335324).
9.20 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (T) (5334514).
9.50 *Esther* (T) (8220701).
10.20 *The Roadshow Collection* (5287072).
10.45 *News* (T) (7797275).
10.50 *Cricket: Fifth Test — England v Australia*: The final morning's play continues on BBC2 (5678912). Note: if the Test finishes early, there will be substitute programming.

12.35pm *Neighbours* (T) (118091).
1.00 *News* (T) and weather (76787).
1.30 *Regional News* (6832508).
1.40 *Cricket: Fifth Test — England v Australia*: Coverage of the final afternoon in Nottingham (5618988).
4.00 *Popes* (218585). 4.10 *Banhamer v Australia*: The final morning's play continues on BBC2 (5678912). Note: if the Test finishes early, there will be substitute programming.

5.00 *Newsworld*: First of a week's reports marking India's 50th anniversary of independence from British rule (T) (2767237).

5.10 *Editor* (T) (3801850).
5.35 *Neighbours* (T) (548187).
6.00 *News* (T) and weather (696).
6.30 *Regional News* (680).
7.00 *Nightmares*, of Nature: Australian spiders, maggots with a taste for human flesh, killer South American caterpillars, and honey bees (T) (2140).
7.30 *Mastermind*: Specialist subjects are the Borgias; the stories of H.P. Lovecraft; the life and books of Arthur Ransome and Frances Howard; Countess of Somerset (T) (362).
8.00 *EastEnders*: Ted and Sarah are preparing to leave; Ricky realises that his image needs attention; Grant and Annie are busy making inquiries about each other (T) (6188).
8.30 *Tiger Bay*: Jodie decides to teach Roy a lesson by channelling Warwick at the Trader (T) (7895).
9.00 *News* (T) and weather (3237).
9.30 *French and Saunders*: Actress and singer Patsy Kensit join Dawn and Jennifer (T) (79411).
10.00 *Preston*: Front Spock tries to shake a listless, overweight student out of his lethargy (T) (24527).
10.40 *Match of the Eighties*: Danny Baker recalls football headline-makers of the 1983-84 season (T) (150614).
11.20 *Classic Albums*: All the original musicians on the landmark 1978 album *Songs in the Key of Life* gather at Stevie Wonder's Wonderland studio in Los Angeles to reminisce (T) (917878).
12.25pm *Cricket: Fifth Test — England v Australia*: Richie Benaud presents highlights of the fifth and final day's play at Trent Bridge, unless the Test finishes early (5520183).
1.05 *Ribit to Kirby* (1984) with傅麗君: Fact-based drama about a teenager driven to drastic measures to protect his sister and mother from the assaults of his violent, tyrannical father. Directed by John Erman (T) (1023676).
2.35 Weather (7957183).

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The names need to "each TV programme listing" in VideoPlus+. These codes allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the VideoPlusCode (e.g., PlusCode "1") Video Programmes are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

SKY 1

8.00am *Morning Glory* (594911) 8.00 *Right and Wrong* (12904) 10.00 *Another Day* (14053) 10.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 11.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 11.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 12.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 12.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 1.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 1.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 2.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 2.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 3.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 3.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 4.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 4.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 5.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 5.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 6.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 6.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 7.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 7.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 8.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 8.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 9.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 9.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 10.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 10.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 11.00 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 11.30 *Days of Our Lives* (14053) 12.00 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